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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Suspect in DPS burglary falls. PAGE 3
PSS delivers laptops to schools. PAGE 5

$5.05 hourly minimum wage today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Starting today, the CNMI's minimum wage of $4.55 an hour becomes $5.05 an hour because of a federal law that requires a yearly 50-cent increase until it reaches the federal wage floor of $7.25 an hour in 2015.

For many in the CNMI, the increase in the hourly wage rate couldn't have come at the worst possible time.

The local economy is in deep recession, businesses continue to shut down or cut operations, and the cash-strapped CNMI government is on the verge of a shutdown because no budget has been passed as of yesterday, and over 1,400 employees could be temporarily out of job until a balanced budget is passed.

The forced minimum wage hike is drawing different reactions from those affected—the government, the private businesses and the local and foreign workers.

Businesses, for one, are concerned about the impact the forced wage increase would have on their operational cost.

As of yesterday, some were still hoping

See MINIMUM on Page 4

CNMI govt on the brink of shutdown; as House, Senate budget talks collapse

» Fitial poised to issue emergency order today

» Public dismayed over deadlock

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A government shutdown that will temporarily send over 1,400 workers out of jobs and close many public services starting tomorrow is now likely after budget talks between the Senate and the House of Representatives collapsed yesterday.

Community members have expressed disappointment that the Legislature's failure to set aside politics and do their job—to timely pass a balanced budget—

See SHUTDOWN on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), center, knocks on the door of the House chamber on Capital Hill while Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota), left, and Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), right, look on at past 12:30pm yesterday. The House chamber doors were locked, so they proceeded to the Senate chamber where only 15 of 29 lawmakers, most of them Republicans, attended a joint meeting that the Senate called.

1 DAY left before the start of the new fiscal year

RELATED NEWS

- Key DPH services to remain open. PAGE 2
- Judiciary assures availability of key services. PAGE 2
- Faisao: Aging Office included in essential services. PAGE 2
- Fitial urged to exempt all NMC employees. PAGE 8

TIMELINE

Crunch time on the Hill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

From back-to-back meetings, to dissolving a conference committee, a news briefing and evening sessions, lawmakers had their hands full yesterday—two days before a government shutdown if no balanced budget is passed today.

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) held a leadership meeting in the morning, while the Senate was waiting for the House to call a meeting of the conference committee, originally set for 10:30am.

The conference committee didn't meet.

At 11:30am, Senate President Paul A.

See CRUNCH on Page 4

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
In the budget tussle between the House and the Senate, which number of work-hour cuts do you support?
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INSIDE

Campus Mayhem
A student opens fire with an assault rifle on the University of Texas campus.
NATION...Page 16

Afghan General
Gen. David Petraeus trudges across a helicopter landing area, looking purposeful but a bit grim.
ASIA...Page 17

Bolton Out
Michael Bolton is booted out after the worst jive in "Dancing With the Stars" history.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

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Local

Key DPH services to remain open despite govt shutdown

Despite the possible government shutdown on Oct.1, 2010, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez assured yesterday that some health care services and clinics would remain open and fully operational.

At the Commonwealth Health Center, hospital services that will remain open include the emergency room, inpatient care services, Family Care clinic, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, operating room, physical therapy, mental health/psychiatric care, laboratory, radiology, respiratory therapy, Women's Clinic, and Children's Clinic

Other clinics that will remain open are the Women, Infants, and Children Clinic, the Tinian Health Center (limited to acute care only), and Rota Health Center (limited to acute care only).

All other department clinics, services, and administrative offices that are not listed will be closed effective Oct. 1, Friday, until further notice.

Villagomez encouraged the public to contact private health clinics to obtain wellness services such as immunizations, dental services, prenatal care, well baby checkups, and other preventive care screenings.

"It is also important that each and every one of us takes extra precautions to keep ourselves and our families healthy especially as we go through these very hard financial times," he said. We apologize for this great inconvenience to the public and please keep informed about any changes to clinic schedules and other the Department of Public Health services by keeping in tuned to the local media." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Faisao: Aging Office included in essential services

The secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs said some positions at the Office on Aging are on the list of positions that deliver essential services related to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the commonwealth.

Melvin Faisao told *Saipan Tribune* via email that the omission of the locally funded employees at the Office on Aging that are considered essential was "an unintentional oversight" and not the fault of the administration.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued Monday a memorandum listing all essential service employee positions to be exempted from a government shutdown if the Legislature fails to pass a balanced budget today.

According to Faisao, the page that included the Office on Aging positions was misplaced when the memorandum was issued.

"As of [Tuesday], I've met with the governor and the pertinent information was delivered and the department was assured that the information will be included in the next revision that will be issued at a later date," said the secretary.

The essential positions at the Office on Aging consist of a cook and a meal driver for each of the three islands.

Office on Aging director Rose Mondala said yesterday that she informed the *man'amko* right away about this update.

The *man'amko* were prepared to stage a rally on Capital Hill should the government consider the Aging Office a nonessential agency in the event of a government shutdown on Oct. 1.

"The *man'amko* were very happy. I told them that the governor will not forget them," said Mondala. ***(Clarissa David)***

Judiciary assures availability of key services despite shutdown

The Judiciary assured yesterday that all services it deems necessary to protect the CNMI Constitution and ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the people will remain available from Oct. 1, 2010, onward.

This comes on the heels of a possible shutdown of the CNMI government due to the continuing impasse at the Legislature on the passage of a balanced budget for fiscal year 2011. A constitutional amendment passed last year requires the shutdown of the CNMI government—except for essential services—if no budget is passed by Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

In a statement yesterday, the Judiciary said that its duties and responsibilities to the people of Commonwealth "remain ever present regardless of the difficulties and obstacles our government is facing."

The protections afforded by family court, the Office of Probation, emergency injunction and restraining order hearings, and criminal litigation will continue, it said.

Security will also continue to be provided at all times inside the courthouse to guarantee the safety of participants and observers.

The clerk's offices will remain open for filings and to make certain that matters of urgency are heard.

The judges and justices of the Judiciary will remain readily available, maintaining the rule of law by reviewing and signing warrants, ensuring citizens are afforded their constitutional rights, and providing a forum for the people of the Commonwealth to be heard and seek protection.

"The people of the Commonwealth can rest assured that under no circumstances will the door of the courthouse close, depriving citizens of the protections of justice," it said.

A government shutdown will only be lifted once the Legislature passes a balanced budget and the governor signs it into law. There is no set deadline for this, which means it could take just days or up to several months for lawmakers to agree on a budget. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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NMI public schools post 11.1K students, employ 581 teachers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of Sept. 24, the Public School System has a total of 11,105 students and 581 classroom teachers this school year.

The enrollment figure translates to a slight increase over the previous year's record of nearly 11,000 students from kindergarten to 12th grade in 20 public schools on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Students accepted to the PSS Early Intervention and Head Start programs are included in the total enrollment data.

The classroom teachers' population is also a slight increase over last school year's 560. A total of 66 new teachers were hired from here and off-island during the summer period.

Federal stimulus money given to the CNMI this year funded the restoration of 105 teacher and counselor positions that had been cut in 2006 due to funding constraints.

PSS has the following enrollees this school year: kindergarten, 604; first grade, 775; second grade, 782; third grade, 819; fourth grade, 841; fifth grade, 853; sixth grade, 827; seventh grade, 856; eighth grade, 816; ninth grade, 1,088; tenth grade, 873; eleventh grade, 740; early intervention, 53; and Head Start, 462.

At the elementary level, Garapan Elementary has the highest enrollment, with 842 students, followed by William S. Reyes, with 743 enrollees. San Vicente school has 638, while Oleai Elementary has 559.

Other elementary schools have the following enrollment numbers: Gregorio T. Camacho, 230; Tanapag, 219; Dandan, 427; San Antonio, 323; Koblerville, 395; Tinian, 234; Kagman, 531; and Sinapalo, 202 students.

Middle schools have the following enrollees: Hopwood, 1,216; Chacha Oceanview, 397; Rota Junior High, 143; and Tinian Jr./High School, 264.

Among secondary schools, Marianas High has the highest enrollment, with 1,392. Saipan Southern High has 861; Kagman High, 782; and Rota High, 192.

Suspect in DPS burglary falls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police arrested Tuesday afternoon an ex-convict who allegedly stole seized marijuana and copper wires from the Department of Public Safety's evidence room in Susupe.

Police served the arrest warrant on 35-year-old Christopher Ayuyu in Koblerville for burglary and theft. Bail was set at $10,000 cash.

Ayuyu was brought before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja yesterday afternoon for his initial appearance.

Detective Roque Camacho stated in his report that Ayuyu was tagged as the suspect in the DPS burglary after a concerned citizen called him on Aug. 31, 2010. The caller allegedly told him that Ayuyu and Cheyenne Sablan were behind the burglary.

The DPS burglary was reported on Aug. 9, 2010, during which several boxes of dried marijuana trees and copper wires that were seized as evidence had been taken. Some of the boxes were recovered behind the DPS' evidence room.

Camacho said a trail of the marijuana was found leading to the northwestern portion of the parking lot of the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly Nauru Building) and also in the bushes along the road behind the Office of the Attorney Genera's Criminal Division in Susupe.

The detective said that, on Sept. 1, 2010, he and a detective picked up Sablan in San Antonio and interviewed him at DPS. At that time, Sablan denied involvement in the burglary but implicated an alleged marijuana supplier.

Later that day, Camacho said he picked up the man and interviewed him at DPS. The man denied the allegation and, instead, disclosed that he saw Ayuyu trying to sell marijuana to someone in Chalan Kanoa.

Camacho said the man claimed he overheard Ayuyu saying he took the marijuana from the DPS evidence room.

During his second interview with Sablan on Sept. 2, 2010, Camacho said that Sablan finally admitted knowing about the burglary.

The detective said Sablan admitted that Ayuyu picked him up from his house and they proceeded to the parking of the Marianas Business Plaza.

Sablan, however, claimed that it was Ayuyu who actually burglarized the DPS evidence room, as he had been left behind in the vehicle.

Sablan said Ayuyu later gave him $50 then threatened to kill him and his family if he reports the matter to the police.

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- Audience members are not allowed to carry banners, hold signs or anything else that would distract the speakers. Audience members also may not display any promotional material supporting any candidate, including but not limited to buttons, hats, t-shirts, etc.
- No smoking.
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CRUNCH

From Page 1

Manglona (R-Rota) officially dissolved the Senate conference committee.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), chair of the conference committee, expressed disappointment over the Senate's action. He and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) prepared a substitute bill yesterday afternoon to a new budget bill he pre-filed on Tuesday.

Manglona and other Senate members told the House speaker in a letter that they would assemble in the House chamber at 12:30pm yesterday and remain there until there is a quorum of House members to continue budget discussions.

The Senate, in a resolution passed Tuesday, wanted all 20 House members and nine senators to resolve the deadlock on the budget, specifically to choose between the House's 16-hour cut per pay period plus 13 unpaid holidays and the Senate's eight-hour cut plus seven unpaid holidays.

At 12:40pm, Manglona and the senators went to the House chamber, only to find that the doors to it were locked.

Senators and House members waited in the House lobby until after 1pm.

They asked House sergeant-at-arms Peter Towai if the doors could be opened, but Towai said the vice speaker instructed him not to open them until 2pm when the House leadership was set to hold a news briefing.

At 1:13pm, Manglona asked lawmakers present to proceed to the Senate chamber instead.

At the joint meeting, only 15 of 29 lawmakers were present: eight of nine senators, and seven of 20 House members.

The senators present were Manglona, Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

From the House, those present were House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota).

Those present in the Senate chamber took turns venting their frustration with the House leadership for not negotiating in good faith with the Senate.

Seven Covenant Party members, three Independents and three Republican members of the House didn't show up.

Most of them were at a news briefing in the House chamber about an hour later.

Besides House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) who didn't say a word during the news conference, others present were Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan).

Ogumoro said they didn't have to attend the joint meeting called by the Senate.

Just like those in the Senate chamber, those in the House chamber told the media they are still hoping a budget will be passed to avoid a shutdown.

In the next building on Capital Hill, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial held an emergency Cabinet meeting at past 4pm.

The House scheduled a 5pm session, but reset it to 7pm last night to pass a new budget bill, among other things.

The Senate also originally set a 7pm session but this was moved to a later time last night to wait for any bill passed in the House.

Today is the last day to pass a balanced budget or the government will shut down as mandated by the Constitution, which was amended last year to disallow carrying over last fiscal year's budget and to require a new budget every fiscal year.

SHUTDOWN

From Page 1

will send people out of their job and without income for days or weeks.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is poised to issue today an emergency order on a government shutdown if the 17th Legislature's last-ditch efforts to timely pass a balanced budget fail.

Both chambers were scheduled to hold sessions last night to try to pass a new $132 million budget bill.

But the House legislation still contains the same contentious items like a 16-hour work cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays that the Senate wants to reduce to eight hours per pay period and seven unpaid holidays.

People milling at the House and Senate chambers yesterday said lawmakers cannot expect to see new results by doing the same thing.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), in a news briefing, said they are hoping that the Senate will pass the new budget bill that the House was set to pass last night.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said the House should have met with the Senate halfway on the work hour cuts.

Manglona said the Rota and Tinian Legislative Delegation have already agreed to stick with the governor's budget proposal for Rota and Tinian, which was reflected in the House budget version.

The governor submitted his budget proposal to the Legislature on April 1.

Today is the last day to pass a balanced budget or the government—with the exemption of essential services—will have to shut down.

The shutdown will remain until a balanced budget is passed.

Indigenous members of the community are set to troop to the Legislature today to press the lawmakers to pass a balanced budget, said Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive director Ignacio Demapan.

"We support the administration and the House version of the budget because we don't want 383 employees to be out of their job if the Senate proposal is passed," he said.

The governor held an emergency Cabinet meeting in his conference room yesterday afternoon, in preparation for an imminent government shutdown.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment later, reiterated that the "shutdown is before us" and the governor "will issue emergency order" today.

'Dissolved'

The House and the Senate did not agree on the fiscal year 2011 budget bill, resulting in the formation of a six-member conference committee on Sept. 14. The budget panel has three senators and three House members.

However, the conference committee was able to agree on only four of the 10 major differences in the House and Senate versions of the bill. A few days ago, they agreed on only three issues.

Ogumoro said yesterday that these four resolved differences are:

Over $4.464 million for the Northern Marianas College to meet the Maintenance-of-Effort agreement between the CNMI governor and the U.S. Department of Education;

Over $31.140 million for the Public School System, also to meet the MOE;

Reinstatement of the $100,515 for the Commonwealth Zoning Board; and

Over $8 million for utility payments.

But the conference committee failed to agree on the work hour cuts, the lawmakers' annual discretionary fund, the lawmakers' leadership account, the Judiciary's budget, and the Rota and Tinian budgets.

The conference committee, chaired by Basa, went back-and-forth discussing and disagreeing on the work hour cuts, until Manglona gave the committee until 11:30am yesterday to address the remaining budget issues.

Manglona dissolved the Senate conference committee after the committee failed to resolve the deadlock.

Basa, in an interview around noon, said he was "disappointed" that the Senate gave up on the committee.

He then said that he, as well as Ogumoro, will introduce a new budget bill, copies of which were provided to the media yesterday afternoon. However, the House was readying a substitute bill last night.

Manglona, during a joint meeting between eight of nine senators and seven of 20 House members, asked his colleagues to review the House bill so that they would be ready to act on it when it's transmitted to them.

"If we need to stay here until midnight to work on it, we will," he added.

Police officers were again patrolling the Legislature yesterday to prevent any untoward incident.

'We don't trust them'

The governor sent an email to Manglona regarding the budget.

Manglona, in response yesterday, said the Senate agrees to work hour cuts but not as drastic as 16 hours per pay period plus 14 unpaid holidays, which translates to 26 percent of a government employee's salary.

"While I appreciate your willingness to meet with the presiding officers of the Legislature, the members of the Senate frankly do not trust the speaker and the House leadership," Manglona told Fitial, referring to the House's failure to pass revenue-generating bills.

But Ogumoro, during the news briefing, said the House passed the casino bill and a business license fee increase bill.

She pointed out that if the Senate is also serious in growing the economy, it shouldn't have killed the casino bill.

Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), who joined the news briefing of the House leadership, said the Senate amended his bill raising the annual license fee to include sin tax increases and new fees that will be a heavy burden to businesses at this time.

Manglona told Fitial that additional revenue is needed to pay for the obligations of the government and to reduce work hours to a minimum.

"In the event that the Legislature does not pass a budget before the new fiscal year, I recommend that we meet immediately to discuss a plan of action," Manglona told the governor.

Fitial reminded lawmakers to include an additional $10.5 million in required government retirement and health insurance contributions in their budget deliberations.

'Pass a budget'

Former representative Tina Sablan, in a letter yesterday to the 17th Legislature, said there "are trying times for all the people of the CNMI, and the political games you are playing in your chambers serve no one." ***See letter on Page 11.***

Attached to her letter was a petition with over 300 signatures of concerned citizens, calling for the lawmakers to timely pass a balanced budget.

She called on lawmakers to cut their discretionary funds and the Executive Branch, and impose stricter guidelines for expenditures.

"Scrap your excessive subsistence allowances. Terminate vehicle leases, cell phones, free utilities, and other generous perks for all elected officials. Stop all unnecessary travel. Suspend compensation for all government boards and councils. Terminate all the lucrative and nonessential contracts of consultants, private law firms, lobbyists, and special advisors in all branches of government," she added.

Meanwhile, government agencies including the Department of Public Health have already notified the public of the public services that will not be available starting Oct. 1 if no budget is passed today.

MINIMUM

From Page 1

that the U.S. Congress will act on a measure to defer this week's minimum wage increase in the CNMI and in American Samoa.

For the first time since 2007, the minimum wage increase will affect the CNMI government since there are government employees earning less than $5.05 an hour.

But Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the number of government employees that will be impacted by the 50-cent increase is minimal—at least this year. The succeeding increases will be felt more.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said the government will have to comply with the federal minimum wage law.

Romeo Patriarca, a heavy equipment operator currently earning $4.55 an hour, said the 50-cent increase will be a big help to him since it will give him more money to buy food, pay for his utility bills, fill up his car tank with fuel, and remit to his family in the Philippines.

"I have seven children, and four of them are still students," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at a construction site in As Lito.

Other nonresident workers, however, do not really welcome the minimum wage increase because, even though they will be paid 50 cents more, their employers would remove their free housing or make them pay a portion of it.

"So in a way, it's not a salary increase," one of them said.

Douglas Brennan, general manager of Micrel Corp. and president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said that for Micrel Corp. alone, more employees will be affected by today's minimum wage increase compared to those affected during the three previous rounds of increases.

"This particular change is going to affect more staff members than the last two. And each change from hereon out will increase our cost of doing business. If the cost to business increases, we need to expand the business to cover that additional cost, to grow the business. Or pass it on to consumers or reduce our number of employees," Brennan said in a separate interview.

He said payroll is a major cost for any business, and this has to be taken into consideration to remain viable.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, which represents 13 of the largest hotel in the CNMI, welcome this year's minimum wage hike but is asking for a reprieve for next year's round of increase.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in a separate interview, said the 50-cent increase is not a merit increase but mandated by federal law so there is no need for the government to also raise the salaries of other employees already earning at least $5.05 an hour even before Sept. 30.

He said this should not be a cause of employee morale problems.

The work hour cuts embedded in the $132 million budget for fiscal year 2011 will also not stop the government from complying with the new minimum wage requirement.

Employees will start receiving $5.05 an hour, but will be subjected to either an eight-hour cut or 16-hour cut per pay period plus unpaid holidays, depending on the budget bill that will be passed today.

A May 1997 federal minimum wage law mandated a yearly 50-cent increase in the CNMI.

But a law signed by President Barack Obama in December 2009 delayed the yearly 50-cent minimum wage hike from May to September this year.

The succeeding increases will also be every Sept. 30 until the CNMI's minimum wage reaches the federal wage floor of $7.25 an hour. The CNMI will reach that rate in 2015.

HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa and Chamber's Brennan said the minimum wage increased by 66 percent from $3.05 an hour in 2007 to $5.05 on Sept. 30 this year—a "tremendous step forward" in fairly compensating the CNMI's workforce.

"Unfortunately, the balance of the Commonwealth economy has not kept pace with the increases in the minimum wage," they said in a letter in June to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

Nishikawa and Brennan, in their four-page letter, said it is in nobody's interest—not workers, not businesses, and not the government—for uncontrolled cost increases to lead to business closures.

Brennan said they have yet to receive a response to their letter.

HANMI and the Chamber said wage increases should not come about at the expense of jobs, adding that it is now appropriate to allow the rest of the economy an opportunity to catch up with the increasing minimum wage rate.

In today's meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter, they invited Patrick Candoleta, assistant district director for the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division in Guam, to talk about the minimum wage increase.

The lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

PSS delivers laptops to schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Public School System officials and Board of Education members led by Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan simultaneously delivered yesterday brand new laptops to various public schools for distribution to seventh and eighth graders.

Sablan

Kagman High School principal Alfred Ada received yesterday 782 laptops for its students in a ceremony at the school cafeteria.

Principal Vince Dela Cruz of Chacha Oceanview Junior High got 292 units for his seventh and eighth graders, along with Saipan Southern High School principal Jesse Tudela who welcomed the delivery of 861 laptops.

Yesterday's simultaneous turnover ceremonies were broadcast on three islands through video teleconference.

Sablan was joined at Kagman High School by members of the Education Board, U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, and PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh.

Peter Le'au, associate commissioner for administration, and human resource director Charlie Kenty represented PSS in the turnover ceremony at Saipan Southern High.

According to Le'au, each laptop will be given to its intended recepient starting Saturday.

As per policy, both parents and students will be required to acknowledge receipt of the units and conditions for the use of the laptops.

Both Marianas High School and Hopwood Junior High are expected to get their laptops today.

All 1,392 MHS students will be given laptops, along with Hopwood's 1,216 enrollees.

For Tinian and Rota secondary schools, Le'au said that PSS will ship the equipment today and are expected to be handed out to recipients within three days.

Saipan Tribune learned that Rota High School is expected to get 192 units while Tinian Junior and High School are assigned 264 laptops.

High school students in private schools are also entitled to the laptops.

The 5,200 brand new Latitude 2100 netbooks were procured as part of the system's One-Laptop-Per-Child project, using $2.2 million of the federal State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.

The units are equipped with cameras, WiFi, and touch screens.

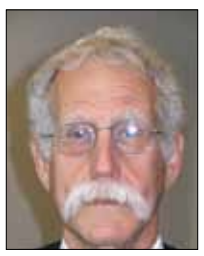
The computers are being touted as a means to boost student learning and performance.

Court recording allegedly shows judge using unsuitable language

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Special Ethics Prosecutor Bruce A. Bradley has filed with the CNMI Supreme Court an official recording of a sentencing of a defendant in a sex abuse case during which Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo allegedly used inappropriate language in open court.

Bradley submitted an exhibit list that contained the recording of Govendo's sentencing of Kurk Palacios to 12 months in prison for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.


Govendo

Among the statements that Govendo allegedly stated in open court were:

- "I do not see, in this society, parents spending time with their teenagers. There's always rosaries to go to, there's always excuses."
- "I have said it over and over again: This is the loose-as-a-goose Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Our moral values are low! Low!"
- "If you have a son, start educating him tonight: He can't screw 13 year olds!"
- "If you have a 13-year-old daughter, it's time to tell her: Stop screwing!"
- "Our young people need to become members of society, not teenage baby makers."
- "This [adult males having sex with minor girls] has been accepted by this whole community."

Bradley said these statements are aggravating evidence as it illustrates that Govendo's questionable conduct and use of inappropriate language in open court while on the record in public proceedings has not been limited to the three hearings addressed in the formal disciplinary charges.

Bradley said the judge made various statements during the sentencing hearing—often yelling loudly—with regards to his personal opinion of the 19-year-old defendant's behavior in having sex with a 13-year-old girl and the general state of things in the CNMI.

During oral argument, Govendo took the position that his statements do not constitute violations of any of the canons or rules of judicial conduct. At that time, his statements in the Palacios sentencing were not brought up.

Govendo then filed motions for reconsideration and to disqualify. He accused Chief Justice Miguel Demapan of being biased and prejudiced against him. Demapan countered that Govendo raised patently false allegations against him and his family.

Bradley submitted the exhibit list and a witness list on Friday in connection with the Oct. 15, 2010, hearing to determine the sanctions that will be imposed on Govendo.

The Supreme Court had found the judge's use of "adios muchacho" and two other statements in court to be racially derogatory and a violation of canons and rules for judicial conduct.

The special ethics prosecutor said that, in the Palacios sentencing, Govendo also stated the following statements:

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Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

CNMI gets $1.2M broadband mapping and planning grant

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that the Commonwealth has received a grant of $1,216,116 for broadband planning and mapping, through the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The CNMI is partnering with One Economy, BroadMap, and New America Foundation to develop an interactive online map that can be used by consumers to identify the availability, speed and location of broadband services—essentially high-speed Internet access—and to plan for future broadband needs across the Commonwealth.

"We are excited to be partnering with a group of experts to help realize the expansion of high-speed Internet access and services to all individuals throughout our Commonwealth. This will help our citizens, local businesses and educational institutions enjoy the economic and educational benefits of the NTIA funding," said Fitial.

One Economy will concentrate the majority of its planning efforts in the CNMI on identifying the barriers that are preventing people from using broadband, and determine the best ways to increase broadband adoption. Supported by the CNMI Central Statistics Division, One Economy will engage the community at the local level and gather important information from the people who live there using an in-depth, multi-lingual survey. The outcome will be a "Digital Inclusion Blueprint" that will enable CNMI to make the best broadband planning decisions.

"One Economy is proud to be working with the Governor's Office on this important grant. Leveraging technology to improve the economic, education and health outcomes of low-income residents requires full community engagement at all levels," said Moustafa Mourad, interim president of One Economy. "This collaboration reflects community engagement and non-profit, corporate and government leaders working with residents to expand broadband opportunities in underserved communities."

BroadMap's experienced team of Geographic Information System experts has been in the mapping and serviceability industry since the early days of broadband. BroadMap will work with CNMI to incorporate multiple sources of location data and service feedback from the Commonwealth's community anchor institutions—schools, hospitals, government offices and more—as well as information from broadband service providers to build the comprehensive broadband service map.

"We are excited to be a part of this mission. Our MapConnect™ Broadband solution provides the Commonwealth a proven approach and tailored set of services to set the right goals and deliver the critical GIS information and NTIA required formats, on time and on budget," said Daniel Perrone, CEO of BroadMap. "This is an extremely exciting partnership for us to participate in. We believe our efforts in CNMI will result in expanded bandwidth, new jobs and greater opportunities for the residents of CNMI." ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 55th birthday to Fr. Ike Ayuyu! Greetings come with love from your Mount Carmel Cathedral altar servers!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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- Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Incorporated (NMPASI)
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- Domestic Violence Intervention Center

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Fitial urged to exempt all NMC employees from govt shutdown

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera appealed to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial Tuesday to exempt all of Northern Marianas College's personnel from the expected government shutdown, arguing that failure to do so would seriously risk not only NMC's accreditation but the entire community as well.

The administration's list of essential services that will be exempted from a government shutdown includes only the instructional and support staff of the college.

Cabrera, in her letter to the governor, pointed out that failing to exempt all personnel will compromise essential services the college provides the community and shut down all federal programs: Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service; Trio Programs such as the Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound; Community Programs and Services; Adult Basic Education; and the Community Development Institute.

"The shutdown of these programs will have a direct, negative impact on CNMI farmers that avail of CREES training and services, junior high and high school students who participate in ETS, Upward Bound and ABE, and working professionals enrolled in any number of CDI programs, such as the master of education for teachers program from Framingham State College," Cabrera told the governor.

In the event that not all NMC personnel are exempted from a shutdown, Cabrera said the college will be forced to draw from other funds just so it could keep its doors open and maintain accreditation—a move that will only worsen NMC's financial crisis.

She explained that non-appropriation funds exist to meet other needs that would be undermined should their funds be redirected toward offsetting any loss of government appropriations.

Cabrera said that using revenue from tuition and fees to pay for positions not exempted from the shutdown will deplete funds for adjunct faculty, instructional material, and administrative and staff positions.

"Tapping into federal funds may violate statutes, regulations, and policies that govern those programs and subject NMC to possible financial and legal liabilities," she added.

Using other available funds will also undermine the college's ability to contribute its share to the Retirement Fund—something that would, again, subject NMC to possible financial and legal liabilities.

Cabrera also pointed out that non-appropriation funds may only be enough to cover a few pay periods.

This fall semester, NMC employs 86 full-time and adjunct instructors; 44 non-faculty employees; and 109 staffers.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 30, 1999

Census project to create 550 jobs

At least 550 temporary jobs will be available to the local community as soon as the government starts conducting census on the population of the CNMI, the Governor's Office said yesterday. The Governor's Office also said the census project would provide a "major boost to the economy." Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed on Monday a memorandum of agreement between the CNMI Central Statistics Division of the Department of Commerce and the Bureau of Statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce, officially starting the Census 2000 in the CNMI. The agreement calls for close to $3.5 million in U.S. federal budget, and the project is expected to be finished by fall of 2000.

Govt urged to provide local funds for anti-drug programs

Saying the CNMI should not remain dependent on federal grants, a member of the Board of Education yesterday urged the government to provide local funding for drug-free and violence-free programs in local schools. "It is our own backyard that we're protecting, therefore, we should provide our money for that," Tom Pangelinan said at yesterday's meeting of the BOE fiscal committee. The federal government grants the Public School System over $300,000 per year for anti-drug programs. This amount is distributed among the CNMI's private and public schools which have complied with the program planning requirement.

Sept. 30, 2002

Wright to overhaul BoR policies

To achieve maximum organizational change, Northern Marianas College board policies have to be reviewed and overhauled, too, in relation to the recent reorganization at the college, according to NMC President Kenneth Wright. Wright said he and the members of the Board of Regents have agreed on the issue. "it covers the whole board policy...I discussed it with the board and they agreed that we're going to discard all the existing board policies and start building from the ground up," he said. Wright said it would be done "step by step." "That has to be done apiece at a time. We can't throw out what's there, unless you've got something to replace it. We're going to do it step by step," he said.

DPH to meet immunization target

The Department of Public Health only needs to cover four remaining villages—San Antonio, San Vicente, Dandan and Kagman—to complete its anti-measles immunization campaign. This, as DPH medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom expressed confidence that the department will meet its target of reaching out to over 350 "toughest to reach"children in the CNMI. So far, he said, the immunization team has completed the vaccination of 119 children. "We've [immunized] about 119 children so far. Our target is to get about half of the unimmunized kids. That's 305. Our target is over 350," he said.

Sept. 30, 2003

Witness: No materials shipped for Saipan classroom project

A prosecution witness in the ongoing federal jury trial of former Senate president Juan S. Demapan and businessman Michael Kerschner testified yesterday that his company did not ship any construction materials to the CNMI for the defendants' 60-classroom project in 1997. Harvey Fearn, owner of the defunct American Building Supply in Seattle, Washington, testified yesterday that he merely provided quotes to Kerschner on certain materials. But these, he said, were never shipped out because payment was not made. He said he required a 50-percent down payment per shipment. "There was no payment. He [Kerschner] always said it was coming," Fearn said.

EPA appropriates money for waste management system

The Northern Marianas College may soon start the development of an alternative waste management system for piggeries after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency earmarked some $70,000 in federal grant for the undertaking. The project, under the NMC-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, will demonstrate sustainable pig waste management systems by using a dry litter waste system and a portable pen system as affordable and practical ways to manage piggery waste and prevent water pollution.

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Nepal nightmare

(c) 2010, Chicago Tribune

Candice Warltier just wants to bring her 13-month-old daughter, Antara, home to Chicago. The United States won't let her.

They are stranded in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, because the State Department and other U.S. agencies placed a ban on adoptions from that country as Warltier was en route to become Antara's mother.

According to U.S. officials, there are serious concerns about whether some children who have been presented for adoption in Nepal are victims of kidnapping and child trafficking. Investigations have reportedly yielded cases of false birth certificates, cases in which it couldn't be verified that biological parents have willingly given up the children.

Nepal suspended its adoption program in 2007 amid concerns about child trafficking. The nation introduced new regulations in 2008 and resumed adoptions, but concerns have persisted. Some other nations have also stopped recognizing adoptions from Nepal.

State Department officials say the United States has since February urged prospective parents to reconsider adoptions from Nepal, because of trafficking concerns. But the United States imposed no ban at the time, and Warltier and other prospective parents moved forward.

Now she is caught in a nightmare. Nepal recognizes her adoption of Antara, who was abandoned at a local police station and taken to an orphanage when she was just days old. But the United States won't recognize the adoption and Warltier can't return to the United States with her daughter. She has stayed in Nepal for seven weeks now, living with her child in an apartment, fighting for their right to be a family.

Five other U.S. families are in the same limbo over Nepal adoptions. Two of them are from Illinois.

There are sound reasons to be concerned about Nepal's handling of adopted children. But the situation for these families needs to be resolved quickly by the State Department. The uncertainty is cruel.

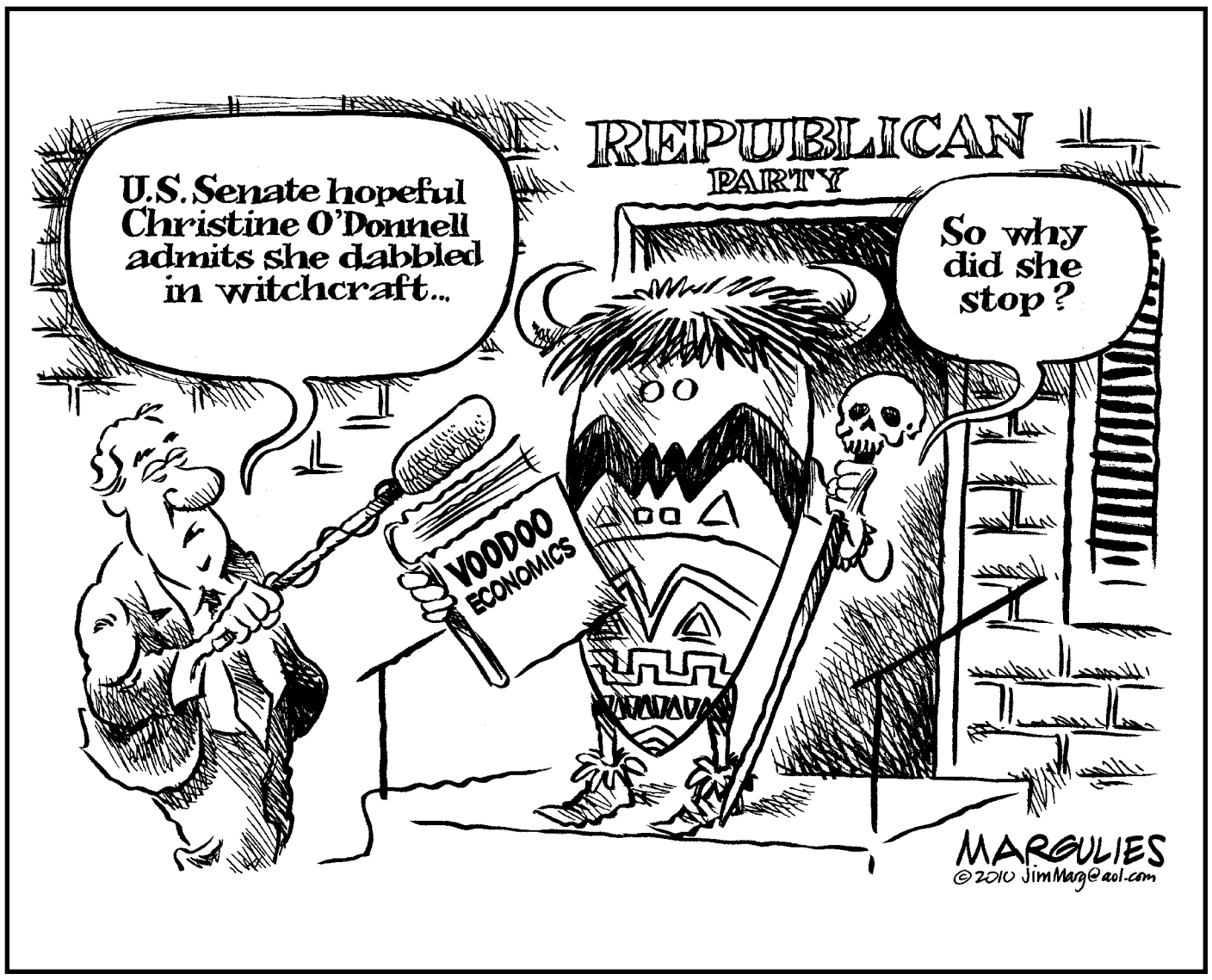
Warltier, who is 42 and single, worked with a reputable Minneapolis agency to find a child through an international adoption. She received a photo and medical records for Antara in June. As soon as Warltier was approved to travel to Nepal, she and her mother took off, getting there on Aug 7.

The U.S. embassy informed Warltier of the sudden suspension while she was en route to meet her daughter.

This is starting to get some attention. Last week, 18 U.S. senators and six members of the House sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, calling on the department to speed approval of cases that were so close to final adoption. "These families are enduring extreme emotional and financial burdens while their children's cases are investigated further," the lawmakers wrote.

Warltier told us she supports the intent of U.S. officials. But she also trusts the orphanage where Antara has lived since she was just days old. She has witnessed Antara's first steps. Her child calls her "Mama."

She just wants to bring her home. The State Department should make that happen.



Surrender in September

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

We saw in September Bill Stewart's well-researched recollections of the ending of Japanese-American hostilities in the aftermath of the Tinian-originating bombs dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A somber account of the signing of the surrender aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay followed by the image of embracing defeat, the title of a recent book that chronicled how a nation that could easily see someone commit *hara-kiri* for a slight social sleight and slight, gave us pause to wonder at the transformation of a situation by the nobility of both victor and vanquished.

We ruminated a year ago over a Sept. 18 monument in Shenyang, Liaoning, the seat of the Manchu Dynasty (Qing) that ruled China for three centuries. The marker is for the Mukden incident in lower Manchuria, where the military faction of Japan's government orchestrated the occupation of the land river basin through an alleged Chinese dissident bombing in 1931 of the Japanese-owned railroad. Manchuria became *Manchukuo,* Japan installing the Qing's last Emperor, Pu Yi, (later, China's first citizen).

Surviving "surrender," a dreaded term in any language for it implies loss of dignity and face, is congruent to the tradition of the Prophet Mohammed. The Arabic term "Islam" means "surrender to the will of Allah" as Japan's surrender was in obedience to the will of the Son of Heaven. The only way the naval and land military forces garnered national assent was to use the name of the Emperor to support geographical expansion against the Kuomintang government, and later confronting the acknowledged superior military force of America. The only way the Japanese cooperated with MacArthur's occupying forces was to keep the Emperor's reputation unsullied. Now we know how the vanquished rose from the infamy of the defeated to being the benefactor of global prosperity and peace.

The question is how one determines the will of Allah, or in the Torah's YHWH, not to mention the *Ruah,* of the Holy Spirit. Same goes for the Son of Heaven and those who claim the Mandate of Heaven. Simple. One decides.

The sons of Abraham called themselves the Chosen People, and the disciples of Jesus, the people of the new covenant. Moslems revere their Qu'ran but that has to be clarified in the Sharia and interpreted by imams. *Zhong Guo* is middle kingdom (center of existence) but practical reality is the measure of the mandate of heaven, the *Tao,* the way life is. American exceptionalism is a feature of the "beacon on the hill" and the people with a "manifest destiny" whose Statue of Liberty holds the *tabula ansata* (tablet of law) with the famous Emma Lazarus' lines echoing: *"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!* The courage to exercise freedom, absolutely and unconditionally, lies at the bottom of defining the "will of G-d"! Born to be free, and acting as one, is as American as apple pie!

But ours has been an island culture of denial and recriminations. There is dependence on Uncle Sam couched in the language of covenant rights and legal entitlements, ignoring our manifest arrogance as ingrates. Then there is the blame game, Tony Babauta being the latest object to represent our woes, with Kilili a close second, the remnants of garment industry a third, and the alleged parochialism of Uncles Ben/Eloy with Cinta in tow as caustic target practice. There are proponents of the quick fix, offering favorable incentives to new investments, preferably to purveyors of games of chance without calling it gambling. Casino family tourism is one way it has been expressed.

No one bothers to point out that the "emperor wears no clothes," and those that do appear like lunatics at the fringe. An editorial in the *Variety* had enough courage to say that we deserve the government we elect because we expect them to act the way they do, i.e., provide picnic tables and novena food—go-fers for our spoiled pedestrian tastes! Bloated like the pampered out-of-shape guard dog, we could not raise our hind legs to do our constitution by the bush, if our lives depended on it!

We suggested two days ago a pedagogy of transformation as turning to the *authority of authenticity, the practice of candor, the openness of inquiry as* marks of effective pedagogy. That is, as a colleague calls it, puncture pedagogy when the balloons of illusions and delusions surrounding our lives are burst, awakening to the prickly face of truth. Ironically, authentic freedom begins with surrender, to the will of Allah, if you will, leaving one with nothing but freedom to decide what that will is to be.

"The Emperor has no clothes," budget-less October, is a watershed in bankrupt CNMI. Time for all to decide; time to be free. It is to that freedom that we surrender. Observe, judge, weigh up, decide and act, is the way one German commends an ethical iteration for anyone. And in the end, the decided free deed knows itself to be the will of G-d!

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What's right with NMC

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

"Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom."—General George S. Patton

The revelation from our elected leaders that we haven't hit bottom yet doesn't instill much confidence and hope for the future. With all the challenges going on at the Northern Marianas College and the community in general, I'd like to share some of the many things that are right at NMC. This doesn't come from me, but from 32 students, faculty, staff, parents, and other members of the community that I surveyed and interviewed in early May 2010.

If you recall, the Board of Regents had just terminated the previous president, which prompted a visiting team from the ACCJC to spend a couple of days interviewing individuals at the college. We were still waiting for the visiting team's report and I was curious about the thoughts and feeling of people, so I conducted my own interview and asked the following five open-ended questions:

What do you feel are the most important things that Northern Marianas College (NMC) should be sure to preserve (the things that are good and working) and why?

What do you feel are the top things NMC should change and why?

What are the most important opportunities NMC should prioritize and focus on in the future?

What do you feel are the biggest challenges that NMC must deal with right away?

How can NMC best contribute to all those it serves generally, or to you personally?

The transcribed comments filled 11 pages. It's too easy to focus on the negative, but in the midst of our challenges, the college is still doing many things that fulfill its mission to improve the quality of life for the individual and the Commonwealth as a whole. In this article, I want to focus on the first question that basically asks what is right with NMC.

Many mentioned the quality of the employees. "The most important thing that we need to keep at NMC is the quality of our faculty and staff."

"There are a lot of talented people who need to be kept at the college."

"Hiring faculty that are enthusiastic and passionate about what they teach. Even though NMC has had some major problems in its management, instructors who have the above-mentioned characteristics have been able to maintain a fun and professional learning environment."

Other assets of NMC brought up by individuals were specific programs, such as the English Language Institute, nursing, business, and education. Some mentioned counseling and the student learning resource center for assistance, and another emphasized: "College Success courses because some students need to be guided to succeed in passing their classes and College Success courses offer that opportunity."

I sent an email to the entire campus and expected someone to criticize the board's decision with the former president, but there was none. One individual commented: "The complement and mix of the current Board of Regents is very good. They have a rare opportunity to pick a management professional to do the job that needs to be done at the college."

A few reiterated the importance of WASC accreditation, and an individual stated: "One thing WASC has never faulted us for is our academic programs."

Another felt that: "NMC is competitive with other colleges at a par with NMC."

Several talked about the "links for high school students to take college classes and prepare them for college" through Upward Bound, 2+2, and Northern Marianas Academy.

Some emphasized the value of preserving the Chamorro and Carolinian culture. "Keep the Chamorro and Carolinian language program because our island [CNMI] is so diverse that the native language will be lost forever if not preserved. It's working because the Chamorro/Carolinian students who don't practice at home are now communicating with their elders who don't speak English."

There's no doubt that the college is a vital asset to the community and offers a valuable service to provide education in the areas of post secondary and continuing education, as well as offering professional development for the people of the Commonwealth. There is so much more that NMC has to offer to the community now and in the future, and as one respondent summed it up: "You can learn things at NMC that you can't learn anywhere else on island."

Letters to the Editor

The people of the CNMI deserve a timely balanced budget

Dear members of the 17th CNMI Legislature: I am writing as a deeply worried CNMI resident, taxpayer, and voter to urge all of you to uphold your fundamental constitutional duty as legislators and pass a timely balanced budget for fiscal year 2011.

The prospect of a government shutdown is as serious as the crippling fiscal deficit we face. As of Sept. 30, 2009, that deficit has ballooned to more than $300.8 million, created by years of runaway government spending and the Legislature's chronic failure to annually pass a balanced budget. The people of the CNMI voted to change the Constitution to disallow continuing resolutions and to impose a government shutdown in the absence of a budget because we recognized, as our leaders must recognize, that a government that fails to live within its means is a government that ultimately fails its people, and robs from the wellbeing and prosperity of present and future generations.

Senators and representatives of the 17th CNMI Legislature, our government must live within its means. It is entirely within your power to ensure that a responsible, balanced budget is set for the year. These are trying times for all the people of the CNMI, and the political games you are playing in your chambers serve no one.

House leaders, stop trying to force the casino bill down the throats of your Saipan constituents who have now twice voted against it. How many times must we say "no"? Enough with the blackmail, the fear-mongering, and empty promises. You yourselves have acknowledged that it would be years before any revenue might be realized from any Saipan casino that might materialize; in the meantime we would have to brace ourselves for the exorbitant costs of a new gaming commission that will likely hire expensive consultants and go on fact-finding missions. If you do not have better ideas for stabilizing and revitalizing our economy and government, then please, do us all a favor and resign.

Senate leaders, stop trying to maintain the status quo of a bloated government by squeezing the remaining life out of our embattled private sector with drastic increases in taxes and fees. The status quo is dead. It never served us well anyway. You do not "generate revenue" for the government by destroying the private sector. You do not preserve jobs or consumer buying power by radically raising the cost of doing business and forcing local companies to close down or increase prices. Here are some of the questions we want you to explore instead: How do we make it easier to do business here? How do we build wealth and opportunities in the private sector? How can the government cut costs?

And here are a just a few of the many ideas we have proposed as your constituents for cutting government costs: Reduce the discretionary funds of the Legislature and the Executive Branch, and impose stricter guidelines for expenditures. Scrap your excessive subsistence allowances. Terminate vehicle leases, cell phones, free utilities, and other generous perks for all elected officials. Stop all unnecessary travel. Suspend compensation for all government boards and councils. Terminate all the lucrative and nonessential contracts of consultants, private law firms, lobbyists, and special advisors in all branches of government.

Over the course of the past few weeks more than three hundred CNMI residents and taxpayers have signed onto petitions urging you to pass a responsible, balanced budget in time for fiscal year 2011. I submit those petitions herewith, via this link: https://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0BwUHx_KkACEqZjA5NjMxYWEtOTRiMy00NTIyLWIxNDAtMjFjMTBhM2YyZDkx&hl=en

We are just a sampling of the many thousands of people who are watching the debacle in the Legislature with increasing dismay and justified anger.

We want you to prioritize funding for essential services. We want you to define those essential services by law, and not try to abdicate your lawmaking responsibilities to the governor so he can rule us all by memo or executive order. We want you to ensure the payment of the government's obligations to the Retirement Fund, utilities, judgments, and debts, and the implementation of an independent desk audit of the government that is so desperately needed.

For the sake of all our people, pass a balanced budget on time and make our government finally live within its means. That is your primary responsibility as legislators.

Tina Sablan
Fina Sisu, Saipan

National security

I find it interesting how Mr. Segundu Castro would label one's letter to the editor as being misleading, to include inheriting the crab mentality. The least I could say is that majority of our leaders in Congress share the same crab mentality he speaks of. I am glad that Mr. Castro recognizes the difference of being handed outright citizenship or permanent residency on a silver platter versus asylum for special humanitarian circumstances.

Again, we are not the U.S. Virgin Islands but the people of the Commonwealth must realize and understand that the author of the bill federalizing our immigration in the name of national security and border control was a U.S. congresswoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands. That bill became U.S. Public law 110-229, which calls for the zeroing out of guest workers in the CNMI by 2014.

As for U.S. Public Law 97-271 involving the granting of over 20,000 non-immigrant workers in the U.S. Virgin Islands the opportunity to apply for permanent residency in 1982, this is the same reference used by assistant secretary Tony Babauta during his recent testimony to members of Congress on behalf of the nonresident guest workers in the CNMI after submitting his recommendation for outright citizenship or permanent residency. Guess what, Mr. Castro, your hero Mr. Tony Babauta supported H.R. 3079 himself and, to further understand each other, 1982 and 2010 is a big difference, and between those years and today the war on terror took place, especially after the 9/11 attacks. The need to secure our nation's borders and toughen our immigration policies is not a dream but a reality and was the basis used by members of Congress when it was first introduced in the CNMI in 2007 during the historical congressional legislative hearing that was fully supported by your hero, Tony Babauta, who continues to cry foul after the grandfathering clause for guest workers in the CNMI was taken out from the original bill. The CNMI is not a stepping stone and we must secure our borders.

Gregorio Cruz
Papago, Saipan

A couple of suggestions

To me, shutting down will cause a major decline in revenue and you lose more customers who are looking to invest here. To make more money, you need to protect and help all the investors that we have left. Help them get stimulus funds to help everyone make it through this economic depression. Exploiting a good opportunity for our future investors is the only way to economic recovery. Shutting down means losing more revenues, losing respect for yourself and the community, and losing investors' attraction.

Tinian Dynasty is asking for assistance to bring back the ferry. Isn't there a federal aid they can apply to help them repair the ferry? Residents of Tinian depend on this for our children's scholarship, transportation to Saipan, medical assistance, and community programs that are now being frozen due to this economic depression and immigration takeover issues.

Here is a list of needs that I see for now:

1. Rules and regulation of our land and sea needs to be published so that it obligates everyone to follow it.

2. A consumer affairs office need to be in place to hear the needs and complaints of both workers and employers.

3. Publish list of services that are available and how to qualify, in all language, so that everyone who needs them will go there for help.

4. An economic recovery assistance plan needs to be made to address the needs of both employees and employers.

Passing another casino bill and not supporting the casino we have right now shows other investors how unreliable our government system is, which in return creates more chaos for our future. Supporting the casino industry that we have right now means you're reliable and respectable leaders of the CNMI. And I can assure you that, in return, investors and many other help will come our way. Helping others bring help to you too.

Does this make better sense?

Winnie Atalig
San Jose Tinian

P.S. Not paying salaries or wages of your employees is listed as sins crying to heaven for vengeance; same with willful murder. Anger and greed are among the seven deadly sins. Citizens of the CNMI, we are brought up on God's laws and the consequence of not following them is not getting His attention too.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

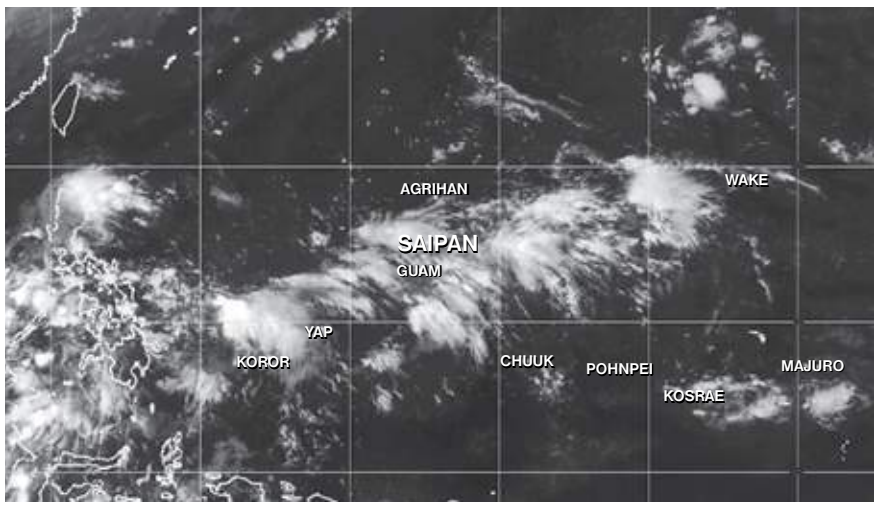
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼55
Beijing	Showers	▲72	▼55
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼71
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼75
New York	Rain	▲75	▼62
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼65
Paris	Showers	▲64	▼49
Pusan	Windy	▲76	▼64
Rome	Sunny	▲77	▼56
Salem	Sunny	▲86	▼58
San Francisco	Parrly Cloudy	▲72	▼60
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼54
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼65
Washington, DC	Rain	▲78	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered southwest of Minami Torishima at 21N151E. Isolated thunderstorms are found in the vicinity of the low over Minami Torishima and southwest of Wake Island or north of a Line from 20N147E to 20N155E to 15N158E to 15N165E. A near-equatorial trough extends northeastward from southern Mindanao through 6N130E and a weak circulation centered just north-northwest of Koror at 9N133E to end west of the southern Marianas at 16N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the circulation just west and northwest of Koror or west of a line from 6N134E to 13N133E. Similar conditions are also present near the northern end of the trough north of Yap between 11N and 13N from 135E to 140E. Converging winds south of the trough are causing scattered showers over Koror but south of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 7N135E to 4N142E. A surface trough runs northeastward from 4N144E to 12N150E convergence near the trough is coupling with divergent winds aloft to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the southern Marianas within 120 miles of a line from 16N143E to 13N148E and also farther south and east within 115 miles of a line from 8N146E to 17N155E. Another near-equatorial trough reaches southeastward from near Enewetak Atoll at 13N163E to just south of Majuro at 5N172E then turns northeastward to beyond 180 at 8N. Scattered showers are evident near the trough south of Kwajalein and Majuro within 70 miles of a line from 6N165E to 4N172E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
1:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
11:06 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:12 PM	11:41 AM
Friday		12:35 PM
Saturday	12:11 AM	1:28 PM
Sunday	1:11 AM	2:18 PM
Monday	2:11 AM	3:06 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

DCCA Child Care Program

Caller Box 1007 Saipan, MP 96950
Bldg. No. 1347 Ascension Ct. Capital Hill
Tel no. 664-2576/2587/2546
Fax no. 664-2547

Announcement

This is to inform all families under the Child Care Program that the renewal month is October, 2010. You may pick up the application form from the Child Care program Office beginning October 1, 2010. All applications along with attachments must be turned in on or before Friday, October 29, 2010 at 12:00p.m. Applications turned in after this date and time will not be accepted.

Child Care Program Office Hours:

Mondays to Thursday s	7:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. (including lunch time)
Fridays,	7:30a.m. to 1:00p.m. Open
	1:00p.m. to 4:30p.m. Closed

Also, the Child Care Program Staff will be conducting renewal outreach for the month of October. Please see below the dates, time, and venue of these outreach activities. During the renewal outreach, you may pick up application forms or submit your completed application forms along with the complete documentations. CCDF Program Staff will be unable to accept applications unless the needed documents are attached. Additionally, there will be no copier available so please ensure you have copies available to provide. Copies must be clear.

Renewal outreach schedule:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010,	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Ada Gymnasium. Oleai
Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	WSR Elem. Cafeteria,CK
Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe
Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe
Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	WSR Elem. Cafeteria, CK
Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe
Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	WSR Elem. Cafeteria, CK
Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe
Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe

Form Approved for Distribution: _____ Date: 9/27/2010

This ad has been funded under the Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/CCB

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ASSET MANAGEMENT CORP.,	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0179
Plaintiff,	)	**AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**
vs.	)	
ANA MARIA B. HOFSCHNIEDER, THE ESTATE OF HENRY LAMBERT UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER, and DOES I-X,	)	
Defendants.	)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 17th, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interests of Defendants in and to the property described as:

Lot No. 001 T 33, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 T 00, the original of which was registered 23 JUL 70 as Document No. 100-A at Land Registry, Saipan.

1. **Date, Time, and Place of Sale:** The sale will be held on Friday, October 15th , 2010, at the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus St., & Botones Ave., Garapan, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. The sale will be open to the general public.

2. **Inspection of Property:** The property described above is located on Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. It is the obligation of the bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

3. **Warranties and Covenants:** All property listed for sale in this Amended Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Amended Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Amended Notice, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

4. **Conduct of Sale:**
   a. ***Reserve.*** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
   b. ***Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.*** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Amended Notice before sale before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any and/or all bids, for any reason.
   c. ***Bids.*** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered or mailed to the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus Street, Botones Avenue, Garapan, P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all of risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
   d. ***Disputes.*** The undersigned may re-submit any property listed in the Amended Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

5. **Enforcement of Auction Sale.**
   a. ***Deposit.*** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the auction is closed. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of Timothy H. Bellas Law Office Trust Account, within **three (3)** days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

6. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

7. **Changes of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale, or the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 1st day of September 2010.

/s/ By: Timothy H. Bellas
Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC
Auctioneer
Tel. no. 323-2115

Preps in high gear for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Cancer Association, in collaboration with members of the Cancer Coalition, is gearing up for the celebration of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Program manager Tina Sablan said community partners in cancer prevention and awareness have lined up a number of activities for next month.

These activities include a proclamation signing designating October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, celebrity bagging in participating stores, a series of Breast Cancer Awareness Walks, educational booths, cooking demonstration, and health screening.

Next month's celebration will also feature a fundraising concert dubbed 2010 Pinktober Concert at Hard Rock Café on Oct. 10.Entrance fee is $10 per person.

The concert will showcase the talents of artists such as Larra Ramos, Pats & Dhen, Jerry Alcantara, Afetnas Regime, The Sai, MC Riyoko, Black Sands, and Burning Bush.

"The concert aims to reach out to breast cancer survivors and raise public's awareness on breast cancer," Sablan earlier said.

The fundraiser will also feature a song written by a breast cancer survivor to be performed by Leila Staffler.

Sablan said there will be a video presentation of different cancer survivors during the concert.

The 2010 Pinktober Concert is part of Hard Rock's month-long Pinktober campaign, an initiative created to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research. It features a series of live music as well as limited-edition products.

This year's Pinktober campaign marks the 11th anniversary of Hard Rock International's support of the search for a cure to breast cancer.

ERRATUM

Yesterday's article on Pinktober referred to Leila Staffler as a cancer survivor. This is incorrect. She's going to perform a song composed by a breast cancer survivor. Our deepest apologies.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team JC Café volunteers join the 2010 International Coastal Cleanup last Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010, at Long Beach, Tinian. Ed Hofschneider of the Coastal Resources Management Office, second from left, team coordinator for Tinian, and Lot G. Bunao, third from left, team leader of JC Cafe volunteers, pose for a photo with the JC Cafe staff after the cleanup drive.

Obama trade rep responds to Kilili on Korean trade accord

U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk has written to U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, thanking him for his continuing support of efforts to complete the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, or KORUS. Sablan is one of a bipartisan group in Congress that has been encouraging President Obama and Ambassador Kirk to try to resolve outstanding issues on the agreement by the November G-20 Summit in Seoul. Korean investment has been a significant and growing component of economic development in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"I very much appreciate the strong bipartisan support for this important initiative underscored by your letter," Kirk wrote. "The President asked me to respond."

Sablan and other members of the House, who support opening up the Korea trade relationship to further expansion, first addressed the stalled KORUS negotiations in a letter to the President last November, shortly before Obama was to meet with Korean President Lee Myung-bak. That meeting did help strengthen the commitment to completing negotiations.

Sablan followed up this year with another communication to keep the White House aware of their continued interest in seeing an agreement finalized, ideally before the summit of the world's top 20 economies in Korea this November.

Korea itself is the 14th largest economy in the world and the seventh largest trading partner for the U.S.

"While at present our economic relationship with Korea is primarily centered around tourism," Sablan said, "in the past there have been Korean manufacturing interests in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Whether our islands would become a platform for manufacture again is dependent on many factors, including the availability of labor and environmental issues.

"But certainly it is valuable for us to be perceived as a part of the United States that is supportive of the growth of the Korean economy through barrier-free trade between our countries. This will encourage other forms of Korean investment in our islands and sends a message that our Korean neighbors are welcome here." ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-164

Tinian Health Center
Supply and Installation of Medical and Dental Equipment

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Municipality of Tinian, TinianHealth Center, Supply and Installation of Medical and Dental Equipment, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 8, 2010 to Mr. Stanley Good, Project Manager or Ms. Nerissa Benavente, Project Coordinator, Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-164".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, October 15, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time October 15, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 15, 2010 and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. October 22, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time October 25, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on October 15, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must possess a certificate of authority to conduct business in the CNMI and certification that the value or its unencumbered assets (exclusive or all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the amount or each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is two hundred twenty **(220)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars **($100.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by two hundred twenty (220) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

PUBLIC NOTICE

MICHAEL S. KATSUREN
is no longer connected with
OCEANIA INSURANCE CORPORATION.
Any transactions made by him on behalf of the company will not be accepted.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BID
MVA-IFB-10-2305

For: Printing of Customs Forms

Closing Date: October 26, 2010 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Managing Director of the Marianas Visitors Authority are soliciting bids from qualified individuals or firms to print the CNMI Customs Declaration forms.

The scope of work may be picked up at the Marianas Visitors Authority in San Jose, Saipan during working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

All bids must be signed, sealed and marked MVA-IFB-10-2305 and submitted with one (1) original and two (2) copies and must be received at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m., Saipan Time, October 26, 2010.

Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid of if preference is claimed.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Lawyers to raise issue to 9th Circuit whether Rota-to-Guam trip is illegal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shixu Huang, the ringleader of a group of Chinese nationals who attempted to sneak into Guam from Rota, was jailed in China several times for his involvement in the student protests at Tiananmen Square, according to his lawyer.

Michael Dotts, counsel for Huang, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Huang decided to get out of China and proceeded to Saipan to seek political asylum.

Dotts said they are planning to appeal Huang's conviction to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

"The primary issue on the appeal will likely be whether or not it is illegal to get on a boat on Rota and try to go to Guam," he said.

The lawyer pointed out that in the U.S. mainland, it is not illegal to go from one part of the U.S. to another. "You cannot be stopped at the border between Arizona and California and arrested," he said.

Dotts said he and the counsels of co-defendants Lihua Yi, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang do not believe it is illegal to go from Rota to Guam.

He noted that there is no law preventing anyone from getting on a boat, even at 4:30am, and leaving the Rota harbor.

Dotts, however, acknowledged that it is very dangerous to travel by raft or small boat from Rota to Guam and that nobody should try it, no matter how desperate they may be to seek asylum.

"If they do try, they are likely to be arrested at the dock just like Mr. Huang," Dotts said.

In June 2010, a federal court jury found the four guilty of attempting to illegally enter Guam via Rota. A fifth defendant, Jingfan Zhang, male, pleaded guilty. He testified for the prosecution during the trial.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Philip Pro sentenced Huang to 12 months in prison for defrauding the U.S.

Pro recommended that Huang serve his time in the U.S. mainland where he may be able to legally change his immigration status.

The judge sentenced Yi and Pingping Zhang each to 13 days of time served and a one-year of supervised release. Zhanshan Zhang was sentenced to nine months in prison and one year of supervised release.

Attorneys Bruce Berline, Mark Hanson, and Anthony Long are counsels for Yi, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang respectively.

Dotts said his client took pictures and witnessed the shooting of students by Chinese troops at Tiananmen Square and was identified by the Chinese government as a "counter-revolutionary." Dotts said Huang was then sent to prison for two years.

When Huang got out of prison, French and German reporters interviewed him about being jailed after Tiananmen Square.

"As a result, Mr. Huang was arrested again for giving the interview and this time imprisoned for four years and sentenced to hard labor," he said.

After his release, government police and officials continued to harass Huang and imprisoned him twice more, Dotts said.

The lawyer said Huang wanted to seek asylum in the U.S. and saw that the CNMI is part of the U.S.

Huang arrived on Saipan in April 2008. He then learned that he could not seek asylum in the CNMI. A photographer, Huang struggled on Saipan as he does not speak English and found it hard to find work.

"When the U.S. took control of immigration on Nov. 27, 2009, Mr. Huang learned that he would be in limbo as to his immigration status for perhaps the next five years as the U.S. figured out what to do with individuals like Mr. Huang in the Commonwealth," Dotts said.

Dotts said Huang learned that if he could just set foot in Guam, he could seek asylum there.

"The morning of Jan. 28, 2010, Mr. Huang with four friends set out in two rubber rafts to go from Rota to Guam so that they could seek asylum," he said.

The defendants were arrested in the port on Rota.

Assistive Technology Fair highlights options for persons with disabilities

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Available financing programs and other kinds of assistance put an end to the challenge of availing assistive technology for people with disabilities in the CNMI.

These funding sources were identified during the 2010 Assistive Technology Fair yesterday at the Taga Room of Aqua Resort Club.

Assistive or adaptive technology are defined as "products, devices or equipment—whether acquired commercially, modified or customized—that are used to maintain, increase or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities."

Lydia Igitol, Center for Living Independently in the CNMI executive director, said opportunities like the Assistive Technology Fair help people with disabilities learn how they can avail of assistive technology devices and services.

Igitol, who is one of the presenters in the fair, said assistive technology aids people with disabilities with their mobility and helps them become more independent.

She said the fair helps people with disabilities find out more about assistive technology vendors and sources as well as the necessary funding to help buy the needed technology.

"I have seen more people with mobility devices through because of different funding sources," said Igitol.

Yesterday's fair also included a presentation about the Trankilu Alternative Financing Program.

Presenter Kaye Christian said the program aims to promote alternative financial support for people with disabilities in the CNMI to acquire assistive technology devices and services to enhance their independence and improve their quality of life.

Christian said the Trankilu Alternative Financing Program is funded under Title III of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 called the Alternative Financing Mechanism Program.

Elena Sutton, another Trankilu program representative, told *Saipan Tribune* that the program, administered with Bank of Saipan, is a relatively new financing program in the CNMI.

According to Sutton, it was introduced about four years ago, discontinued, and reintroduced again about a month ago.

Sutton said the program is very important for people with disabilities who cannot acquire assistive technology by means of other funding sources.

"The program will help people with disabilities to acquire devices that will make education and employment easier and promote independent living," she said.

Babauta OKs funds for Micronesia Challenge conservation efforts

Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta signed yesterday a $130,059 a Coral Reef Initiative grant award to the Nature Conservancy's Micronesia Program.

Funds will be used to further commitments established by the Chief Executives of the Micronesia Challenge to effectively conserve 30 percent of the nearshore marine and 20 percent of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

Over the next two years, the Nature Conservancy proposes to assist in identifying ecoregional priorities throughout Micronesia to strengthen fisheries management and establish broad-based, functioning conservation networks.

The Conservancy will work closely with regional partners to protect vital coastal fisheries for communities and develop nationwide networks to effectively manage protected areas resilient to climate change threats. ***(DOI)***

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Business

Online registration for paid tax return preparers now available

SEATTLE—As part of an initiative to ensure that tax return preparers are competent and qualified, the Internal Revenue Service yesterday issued final regulations requiring paid tax return preparers to register with the IRS to obtain a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). A new online application system to obtain a PTIN is now available.

All paid tax return preparers who prepare all or substantially all of a U.S. tax return are required to use the new registration system to obtain a PTIN.

Access to the online application system will be through the Tax Professionals page of IRS.gov. Individuals who currently possess a PTIN will need to reapply under the new system but generally will be reassigned the same number.

"Getting a new, industry-wide registration system in place is essential to our efforts to improve the standards and oversight of tax return preparation," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "These efforts are essential to the future of the nation's tax system. This will create higher standards for the tax preparation community and ensure quality service for taxpayers."

The IRS set up a special toll-free telephone number, 1-877-613-PTIN (7846), that tax professionals can call for technical support related to the new online registration system.

Applicants will pay a $64.25 fee to obtain a PTIN, which will be valid for one year. As part of that fee the IRS will receive $50 per user, as authorized by final user fee regulations issued by the IRS today, to pay for technology, compliance and outreach efforts associated with the new program. And a third-party vendor will receive $14.25 per user to operate the online system and provide customer support.

Receipt of a PTIN will be immediate after successful online registration. Or a paper application may be submitted on Form W-12, IRS Paid Preparer Tax Identification Number Application, with a response time of four to six weeks. Before registration, applicants should consider that the date the PTIN is assigned is established as the annual renewal date.

Individuals without a Social Security number will also need to provide one of the following: Form 8945, PTIN Supplemental Application for U.S. Citizens Without a Social Security Number Due to Conscientious Religious Objection, or Form 8946, PTIN Supplemental Application for Foreign Persons Without a Social Security Number.

The new online registration system and final regulations are part of a series of steps underway to increase oversight of federal tax return preparation.

In January, Shulman announced the results of a comprehensive six-month review of the U.S. tax return preparer industry, which proposed new registration, testing and continuing education of federal tax return preparers. With 60 percent of American households using a tax preparer to help them prepare and file their taxes, higher standards for the tax return preparer community will significantly enhance protections and service for taxpayers, increase confidence in the tax system and result in greater compliance with tax laws over the long term. Currently, many return preparers do not have to meet any government or professionally mandated competency requirements before preparing a federal tax return for a fee.

Work on testing, continuing education components continue

The start of the PTIN registration process begins as the IRS continues to review the testing and education components of the return preparer initiative as recently announced in proposed regulations that would amend Treasury Circular 230.

The proposed Circular 230 regulations announced that attorneys, certified public accountants and enrolled agents would not be subject to additional testing or continuing education requirements in order to obtain a PTIN. These professionals are currently subject to strict professional standards of conduct and ethics.

Pending finalization of guidance, the IRS has under serious consideration extending similar treatment to a discrete category of people who engage in return preparation under the supervision of someone else—for example, some employees who prepare all or substantially all of the return and work in certain professional firms under the supervision of one of the above individuals who signs the return.

The IRS will provide guidance defining this area in the coming months, and will continue to seek feedback during this process to help ensure the creation of a fair, equitable oversight system that minimizes burden.

On the continuing education requirements, the IRS recognizes the need to have transition rules in place and plans to issue additional guidelines by the end of the year.

For more, see the Tax Professionals page on IRS.gov, which features an FAQ page on the new registration system and who needs a PTIN. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan central bank survey sees business mood rise

TOKYO (AP)—Business confidence at major Japanese manufacturers has improved for the sixth straight quarter, the central bank said in a key survey Wednesday. The Bank of Japan's quarterly "tankan" survey of business sentiment shows that the main index for large manufacturers stood at 8. Three months ago it hit 1. The figure represents the percentage of companies saying business conditions are good minus those saying conditions are unfavorable, with 100 representing the best mood and minus 100 the worst.

Study finds texting laws haven't reduced crashes

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A new study from the insurance industry finds texting while driving laws have had no immediate benefit in reducing crashes. The study done by a branch of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety looked at crash data from four states with texting bans. It found that in three of the states—California, Louisiana, Minnesota—crashes actually increased. Institute spokesman Russ Rader says the increase might be the result of drivers moving their phones down, of out public view, while they text and thus looking away from the road longer.

HP provides rosy outlook, no guidance on next CEO

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hewlett-Packard Co. offered a rosy financial outlook Tuesday without giving any guidance on the biggest issue hanging over the world's largest technology company: the identity of its next CEO. The leading maker of personal computers and printers has been looking for a new leader since it board pressured Mark Hurd, its CEO of five years, to step down in an early August scandal revolving around allegations of sexual harassment and deceptive expense reports. Although HP didn't shed any light on its CEO search at Tuesday's analyst meeting, its current executives left little doubt that they believe the company will prosper no matter who is at the helm.

Nation

Obama rallies and scolds Democrats

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Buck up. Stop whining. And get to work.

Clearly frustrated by Republicans' energy—and his own party's lack of enthusiasm—President Barack Obama scolded fellow Democrats even as he rallied them Tuesday in an effort to save the party from big GOP gains in the crucial midterm elections. In the final month of campaigning, he's trying to re-energize young voters, despondent liberals and other Democrats whose excitement over his election has dissipated.

"It is inexcusable for any Democrat or progressive right now to stand on the sidelines," the president declared in a Rolling Stone magazine interview. He said that supposed supporters who are "sitting on their hands complaining" are irresponsible because the consequences of Republican congressional victories could be dashed Democratic plans.

AP

President Barack Obama shakes hands after speaking at a rally Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010, on the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison, Wis.

He gave an example during a backyard conversation with New Mexico voters, arguing that Republicans would reverse the progress he's made on education reform and student aid. "That's the choice that we've got in this election," Obama said, underscoring the stakes of Nov. 2.

Later, at an outdoor rally at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, the president urged thousands of students to stay as inspired and involved in this election as they were two years ago.

"We can't let this country fall backwards because the rest of us didn't care enough to fight," he said to loud applause.

It was the first of four large rallies planned for the campaign homestretch as the president tries to rekindle some of his 2008 campaign magic and fire up young supporters and others who helped elect Obama but who Democrats fear may stay home this fall. Top lieutenants Vice President Joe Biden, Democratic Party Chairman Tim Kaine and Cabinet members also fanned out on other college campuses to call party foot soldiers to action.

Gunman opens fire at UT in Austin, kills himself

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A student wearing a dark suit and a ski mask opened fire Tuesday with an assault rifle on the University of Texas campus before fleeing into a library and fatally shooting himself. No one else was hurt.

The shooting began near a fountain in front of the UT Tower—the site of one of the nation's deadliest shooting rampages more than four decades ago, when a gunman ascended the clock tower and fired down on dozens of people.

Tooley

Within hours of Tuesday's gunfire, the school issued an all-clear notice, but the university remained closed, and the area around the library still was considered a crime scene.

"Our campus is safe," school President Bill Powers said.

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo expected the school to be "completely open and back to normal" by Wednesday morning.

Authorities identified the gunman as 19-year-old Colton Tooley, a sophomore math major. Police declined to speculate on his motive.

Tooley's parents did not immediately respond to a message left by The Associated Press. A man who said he was a relative of the family and would identify himself only as Marcus came out of their home late Tuesday and said Tooley's parents were distraught over losing their child.

"I want you to understand how he lived. He was a very smart guy, very intelligent, excellent student. He wouldn't or couldn't hurt a fly," he said, reading from a prepared statement. "This is a great shock to me and my family. There was nothing prior to this day, nothing that would lead any of us to believe this could take place."

Tooley's high school principal in Austin described him as an excellent student who excelled in every subject.

"All of us in the Crockett High School community are shocked and saddened by today's tragedy at the University of Texas," said principal Craig Shapiro. Shapiro's prepared statement said Tooley, a 2009 graduate, was remembered by teachers as being "brilliant," "meticulous," and "respectful."

ACROSS THE NATION

Clouds put lid on Calif. heat after record hot day

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Forecasters may never know just how hot it got in Los Angeles during a day of record-breaking heat: After the temperature soared to 113 degrees in downtown, the thermometer took the rest of the day off. "It just kind of quit functioning, but the temperature had already peaked," National Weather Service forecaster Stuart Seto said Tuesday of the blistering weather a day earlier. "We doubt that it went over 113." The fall heat wave pushed temperatures well over 100 degrees from Anaheim, home of Disneyland, to San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz and Salinas on the usually balmy central coast. Many records were set or tied.

Judge tosses out biologist's lawsuit vs NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge has tossed out the lawsuit of a Columbia University-trained biologist who said New York City ruined his good name by falsely saying he had sexually tortured a college student he met in an Internet chat room. Federal Judge Paul Crotty (CRAUGH-tee) said Tuesday that Oliver Jovanovic (J e-VAN-uh-vick) was not prejudiced at trial by city statements. Jovanovic was convicted in 1998 of kidnapping, sexual abuse and assault involving the woman. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison but an appeals court reversed the conviction.

Registered offender fails to report bridge address

FORT EDWARD, N.Y. (AP)—A New York man who served a year behind bars for attempted sexual abuse 14 years ago is heading back to prison for failing to report his new address under a bridge. Police say John Printy, a registered sex offender, started living under a bridge after he was forced to move from his Hudson Falls home because it was too close to a school. He didn't register his new address with police or state officials as required by law. The 41-year-old Printy pleaded guilty in Washington County Court to a felony count of failing to register as a sex offender in connection with his Aug. 16 arrest. He faces one to three years in prison as part of the plea deal.

Asia

N. Korea leader's son promoted, seen as heir

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The youngest son of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il was elected to his first prominent posts in the ruling Workers' Party, state media said early Wednesday, putting him well on the path to succeed his father as leader of the nuclear-armed nation.

The announcement of Kim Jong Un's ascension to the party's Central Committee and military commission came a day after news that Kim Jong Il had made him a four-star general—a major promotion that appeared to set into motion a plan to eventually put the little-known, Swiss-schooled 20-something at the helm of the communist country.

Kim Jong Il has led the nation with absolute authority since taking over in 1994 upon the death of his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, in the communist world's first father-to-son transfer of power.

Speculation has been brewing about another dynastic succession since the 68-year-old reportedly suffered a stroke in August 2008. There are concerns that his sudden death without a leadership plan in place could spark chaos in the nation of 24 million that he rules under a "military-first" policy.

Noticeably thinner and grayer, Kim Jong Il has resumed touring factories and farms but is said to be suffering from diabetes and kidney trouble.

However, none of his sons appears ready to step into the limelight. The eldest, Jong Nam, spends much of his time outside the country and may have thwarted his chances by getting caught trying to sneak into Japan on a fake passport in the 1990s.

The father thinks the middle son, Jong Chol, is too girlish, according to a 2003 memoir by a former sushi chef who worked for the leader.

Kim Jong Un is believed to be only 27 and until this week held no known political or military positions. However, he was always his father's favorite, and the most like him in looks and ambition, the chef wrote in "I Was Kim Jong Il's Cook" under the pen name Kenji Fujimoto.

The son has been kept well under wraps since childhood, and the mere mention of Kim Jong Un's name in state media caused ripples among North Korea watchers looking for confirmation that Kim Jong Il had anointed the young man as his successor.

Petraeus fights time, enemy in Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan (AP)—Gen. David Petraeus trudges across a gravel helicopter landing area with his aides, looking purposeful but a bit grim, as he reaches a village outpost in the violent Afghan province of Helmand. He's here to chart progress, or lack thereof, in a war that's running at the pace of a horse cart, in a world that runs at the speed of a text message.

The only time the 57-year-old commander's smile reaches his eyes are a couple of brief moments when he stops and chats with troops. He poses for snapshots that memorialize his first months in command here, fighting a long war that he knows the American public, not to mention the White House, wants done yesterday.

Petraeus does not snap when a reporter asks him a question he has answered 50 times before, and will at least another 50 this year: Do you see progress?

When he replies, the pressure weighing on him shows in his voice—quieter than when he was in charge at U.S. Central Command in Florida, or earlier in Baghdad and Mosul—and it shows as well in the slightly hunched set of his shoulders, leaning on one arm of the chair.

Petraeus

There is none of the showmanship described in magazine profiles that sketched a megawatt four-star commander who outmaneuvers his adversaries with political and media savvy.

Instead, there is a solemn professor, patiently getting through the next order of business in a day scheduled down to the minute. To answer that "progress" question, he asks his aide for a stack of charts, leafs through to the chosen page, and then walks the reporter through his vision of the war, like a tough calculus problem he keeps having to explain over and over.

Yes, there is some progress, but only some, Petraeus says. No, he will not be drawn out on whether it's a trend. Yes, things are going according to plan. But no, he won't give the plan a timeline, because yes, he knows NATO has overpromised before.

His favorite expression is "only now do we have all the right inputs in place," as in only now do the United States and NATO have all the tools, from manpower to surveillance platforms to all the logistics and air support needed to fight the military side of a counterinsurgency conflict. That encompasses "stressing" the enemy through capturing and killing, and moving Army units into contested Afghan neighborhoods, to win them back from the Taliban.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China warns Nobel official: Don't honor dissident

BEIJING (AP)—China has warned the Nobel committee against awarding its coveted peace prize to a jailed Chinese dissident, the head of the Norwegian Nobel Institute said Tuesday. A Foreign Ministry spokeswoman denied that China has exerted pressure but said that choosing dissident Liu Xiaobo would go against the prize's aims. "The person you just mentioned was sentenced to jail by Chinese judicial authorities for violating Chinese law. I think his acts are completely contrary to the aspirations of the Nobel Peace Prize," said spokeswoman Jiang Yu.

Coca-Cola to invest $1 billion in RP

NEW YORK (AP)—Coca-Cola Co. said Tuesday it will spend $1 billion in the Philippines over the next five years to expand its presence in the fast-growing market, another step by the world's largest beverage company to focus more on emerging markets. Coca-Cola will focus on boosting marketing and improving its delivery capabilities in the country. Coca-Cola said its operations in the Philippines have seen strong growth on the back of several new products during the first half of 2010. Coca-Cola and rival PepsiCo Inc. have been boosting their international markets as overseas economies expand. The companies can sell more drinks as people have more disposable income as those emerging markets improve.

Indian Court rejects deferral of case on holy site

NEW DELHI (AP)—The Indian Supreme Court rejected Tuesday a plea to delay judgment on whether Hindus or Muslims should control a disputed holy site, clearing the way for a verdict in the explosive case later this week. The fight over the compound in the central Indian town of Ayodhya has shaken the core of modern India and led to repeated outbreaks of communal violence that killed thousands of people. A lower court had been scheduled to issue its ruling in the 60-year-old case last Friday on whether the site should be given to the Hindu community to build a temple to the god Rama or returned to the Muslim community to rebuild the 16th-century Babri Mosque.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 027 E 02, containing an area of approximately 4,530 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is JL Reyes Incorporated, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, and Leticia D. Reyes.

The President of the Corporation is Juan S. Reyes. The Vice President is Dolores R. Tudela. The Treasurer/Secretary is Leticia D. Reyes.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Juan S. Reyes.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating the business of general contracting, construction, offices, materials/supply warehouse, and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 14, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN EKSTENSION INATKILAN TANO´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi halom i Seksiona 106 (a) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku guini na ha nå´i notisia i intension-ña para u rekumenda i ekstension ma'atkilan i pumalu na tano´ pupbliku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas Siha. Este na ekstension atkilon sinuhetu ni para u inapreba ni Lihislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha sigun ni mamånda huyong gi Attikulu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku heneråt siña manna´hålom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen propositu siha para i inatkilan tano´ pupbliku. Komu mås mapribeniyi ginen i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, ni tinattitiyi ni pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimånda na para u mapupblika

i. I ma´atkilan tåno´ pupbliku madeskribi komu Lot No. 027 E 02, ni kinensisiste i åria gi kåsi propiu 4,530 square meters, potlumenus mås, ni gaige giya Lower Base, Saipan. i kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku Siha para i rikonosimento.

ii. I manatkikila si JL Reyes Incorporated, i Corportion. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Corporation si Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, yan si Leticia D. Reyes.

I Presidenten i Corporation si Juan S. Reyes. I Sigundo Presidente si Dolores R. Tudela I Tresurårio / Sekritåria si Leticia D. Reyes..

iii. I maproponen ekstension atkilon manigosio gi as Siñot Juan S. Reyes..

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa i lugåt siha uniku para i rason i manmaneha bisnes gi general contracting, konstraksion, ofisina siha, materiåt/supply na warehouse, yan i mana'achule' n aktibidåt siha.

I teman kontråtan inekstenden atkilon sa´ (15) åños.

I maproponen atkilon kada såkkan gi durånten i tema sigun gi percentage gi ma'estima gi fair market value gi propiedåt, inengklulusu i tumatachu na estrokto siha.

v. I kopian i maproponen kontråtan ekstension atkilon siha siña machule´ gi ofisian Dipattamenton Tåno´ Pupbliku Siha, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; i sigundo bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; pat i primet bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha ha risibi tåya´ na tinahguen propositu siha para atkila i suheto i tano´ pupbliku giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårion i Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha debi na uma´aksepta i tinige´ infetmasion, opiñon, testamonion kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i maninteresão na pattida siha gi pat åntes di Oktubre 14, 2010 gi Ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha ni manggaige giya Saipan, Rota pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sow Ffeerul Allegh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No.027 E 02, faawu sangaras limeigh me eliigh llapal (4, 530 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge JL Reyes Incorporated, CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil samwool kkey (Directors) mellól Corporation nge Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, me Leticia D. Reyes.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Juan S. Reyes. Arúscheyil Samwool nge
Dolores R. Tudela. Treasurer/Secretary nge Leticia D. Reyes

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Juan S. Reyes.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yáali bwuley me mwóghut ágheli bisinisil pwol (contracting), construction, offices, peiraghil warehouse, me akkááw mwóghutul.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)

Pomwol akkilon ye llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Ottuubre (October) 14, 2010 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

World

Terrorist plot uncovered in Europe

LONDON (AP)—Intelligence officials have intercepted a credible terror plot against Britain and France, raising security fears at the Eiffel Tower on Tuesday, but failing to raise the overall threat level in either country.

The Eiffel Tower was briefly evacuated Tuesday evening after officials received a bomb threat called in from a telephone booth. It was the second such alert at the monument in two weeks.

The warning came as French officials were put on alert for possible terror attacks. British officials, too, have been aware of a possible attack but the terror threat warning has not changed from "severe."

"There have been a succession of terror operations we've been dealing with over recent weeks but one to two that have preoccupied us," said one British government official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his work. "Still, it hasn't been to the degree that we have raised the threat level."

Another British official, who spoke on the same terms, would not confirm the plot was "al-Qaida inspired" but said there was an "Islamist connection" and that the plots were in an early stage. No other details were given.

Since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States nine years ago, the terror group has moved outside of Afghanistan and Pakistan to other countries such as Somalia and Yemen.

German officials denied Tuesday they had intercepted threats, saying there had been no change to their threat level.

In Washington, a Western counterterrorism official said some missile strikes in a recent surge of attacks by unmanned U.S. drones in Pakistan were aimed at disrupting suspected terrorist plots aimed at Europe.

It wasn't known whether the drone attacks were related specifically to the plot that European authorities said they had intercepted.

The counterterrorism official said the targeted strikes were aimed at al-Qaida and other militant groups arrayed in Pakistan's tribal region near the Afghanistan border. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the details of the terror plot remain sensitive.

The Obama administration has intensified the use of drone-fired missiles in Pakistan's border area but this month there have been at least 21 attacks, more than double the highest number fired in any other single month.

A suspected U.S. missile strike on Tuesday killed four militants in northwest Pakistan's South Waziristan region, just across the border from Afghanistan, intelligence officials said. There was no word on the identities of those killed in the attack.

Chile rescue speeds up, cheering miner families

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—Rapid progress Tuesday in the drilling of escape tunnels for 33 trapped miners brought smiles, hugs and cheers of "Viva Chile!" from family members and government officials, as hopes rose the men might be rescued sooner than planned.

Officials promised the relatives that preparations for the rescue effort on the surface would be ready by Oct. 12, planning for the possibility that the miners could be pulled up nearly a month ahead of the official schedule. But they urged caution, warning that unforeseen problems could slow the work.

A siren sounded at 5 p.m. in the camp where families have held vigil since a rock collapse blocked the mine's exit shaft Aug. 5. At first, no one knew what it meant, just that it was good news.

Then, rescue workers came down to report that the "Plan B" drill had reached 984 feet (300 meters) deep, nearly halfway to its goal after advancing 243 feet (74 meters) Tuesday, more than twice as fast as expected.

At that pace, barring complications, the drill could break through to the miners in about five more days, and be reinforced with a metal sleeve even before Oct. 12.

We're "happy for this depth they reached. We needed just this kind of attitude," Alberto Segovia told The Associated Press. His brother Dario has been trapped in the gold and copper mine for 54 days.

Three drills are pounding through hard rock below the Atacama desert to reach the miners. "Plan B" is a U.S.-made T-130, operated in consultation with a team from Somerset, Pennsylvania, that had experience in the 2002 Quecreek mine disaster, where a similar tunnel was carved to pull out nine trapped coal miners.

Many observers had put their bets on "Plan C," a towering oil-industry drill with the power to rapidly carve a separate tunnel to a spot slightly less deep. Now it looks like either drill might the one to reach the miners first.

Above ground, the government is rushing to set up a field hospital and a huge stage where the media can observe the rescue from a distance.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico: No confirmed landslide deaths, 11 missing

OAXACA, Mexico (AP)—A huge mudslide first thought to have buried hundreds of people has left only 11 missing and there are no confirmed dead, authorities said Tuesday night, backing off earlier predictions of a catastrophe in Mexico's rain-soaked southern state of Oaxaca. Federal Interior Minister Francisco Blake and Oaxaca Gov. Ulises Ruiz both confirmed the drastically reduced toll from the slide that hit the town of Santa Maria de Tlahuitoltepec early Tuesday. "So far no one is confirmed dead, only 11 missing who we hope ... will be found," Ruiz told The Associated Press.

Tropical depression in Caribbean heads for Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba braced for heavy rains and high winds Tuesday night from a tropical depression that formed in the northern Caribbean and was forecast to strengthen before plowing across the island and racing northward toward Florida. The storm's center jogged slightly to the east in the late evening and was churning about 110 miles (175 kilometers) south of Havana, moving north-northeast at 8 mph (17 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. Its projected path would take it directly over the Cuban capital and surrounding provinces. Maximum sustained winds were 35 mph (55 kph), but the depression was forecast to pick up steam and soon become a tropical storm.

Iceland ex-PM faces possible charges in meltdown

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Iceland's former Prime Minister Geir Haarde has been referred to a special court in a move that could make him the first world leader to be charged in connection with the global financial crisis. After a heated debate Tuesday, lawmakers voted 33-30 to refer charges to the court against Haarde for allegedly failing to prevent Iceland's 2008 financial crash—a crisis that sparked protests, toppled the government and brought the economy to a standstill by collapsing its currency. Haarde faces up to two years in jail if found guilty. The court, which could dismiss the charges, has never before convened in Iceland's history. A hearing date has not yet been set.

Environment

'Trashed' at next 1st Friday Films

» First 50 families get reusable shopping bags

Challenge yourself to rethink and reconsider the way we consume and dispose waste at the next First Friday Films. This Friday's event features *Trashed*, which tells the story of garbage...American style.

Official selection of the Newport Beach Film Festival, *Trashed* takes us headfirst into the world of garbage. The documentary aims to show the world just what happens to solid waste after it leaves our hands and homes. *Trashed* encourages viewers to rethink the way that we consume products, reconsider the amount of waste we produce, and refocus on the pervasive environmental issue of overconsumption.

Following the film, Steve Hiney from the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works will be talking a little trash and taking questions from the audience.

For planning purposes the movie is 77 minutes long and starts at 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors center. Come early to visit our great lobby exhibits and to get a free reusable grocery bag courtesy of the Division of Environmental Quality and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance while supplies last. Doors open at 6pm.

As always the event is free and open to the public. For more information on this movie and our other films, including trailers, visit our website at firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. ***(DEQ)***

LIBRARY CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matua Riders took time off their busy schedules to clean the yard at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saturday, Sept. 25. Photo shows Vince Lizama, Leo Ganacias, Jude Palacios, Mark Kapileo, Jonny Kapileo, Jared Itaman, Abram Togawa, John Teregeyo, and John Kapileo.

DO YOUR PART

Choosing the safest seafood

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

These days' seafood lovers are justifiably concerned about the fish and shellfish they buy in grocery stores or order in a restaurant. They're worried that seafood from the Gulf of Mexico is contaminated with oil or any of the oil-fighting chemicals recently released into the waters.

Now, more than ever, it's important to Do Your Part to get informed about the seafood you choose for your family.

It's critical to mention that the seafood coming from the Gulf these days is under more scrutiny than ever. The Food and Drug Administration is monitoring what's coming from the waters with extensive safety testing. They're also working closely with local health workers from different states to ensure that all seafood from areas of concern is safe to eat. But there's more than oil for consumers to worry about when they buy their favorite fish or shellfish. Buyers should also choose ones that come from sustainable fishing practices to ensure the health and longevity of individual species and ocean areas.

It can seem a little overwhelming to make sustainable choices at first because it's not as easy as avoiding one type of seafood. It's about digging a bit deeper on how that particular seafood was raised or captured. One easy way to locate eco-friendly seafood is to look for the blue Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. The MSC oversees all steps in the seafood chain and has the only internationally recognized set of environmental principles to assess whether a fishery is well managed and sustainable. Their website includes a list of retailers and the certified seafood choices they carry.

There are a number of other online sources with easy-to-use reference guides to eco-friendly seafood choices. Some even provide printable pocket-sized guides or mobile applications for your phone to help you make the best choices when you're away from your computer. Visit DoYourPart.com/Columns for a list of these resources. Many even include recipes for preparing your sustainable seafood selections.

Remember, not all seafood is created equal. Do Your Part to be informed so you can shop smarter and eat healthier.

Terri Bennett is an Earth scientist, syndicated columnist and mom. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com. Get more everyday green living tips at www.DoYourPart.com

Life & Style

Carter sickened on plane, rests at Ohio hospital

CLEVELAND (AP)—Former President Jimmy Carter, on a trip promoting his new book, developed an upset stomach on a flight to Cleveland on Tuesday and was staying at a hospital overnight at his doctor's recommendation.

Carter's grandson, Georgia state Sen. Jason Carter, said his 85-year-old grandfather was doing fine.

"He's definitely resting comfortably and expected to continue his book tour this week," Jason Carter said. "I haven't talked to him, but nobody in the family is concerned."

Carter

The former president planned to stay the night at MetroHealth hospital in Cleveland, according to a statement from the Carter Center, an Atlanta-based nonprofit known for its international work on human rights and public health. He planned to resume his book tour Wednesday in Washington D.C.

"He is fully alert and participating in all decision-making related to his care," hospital spokeswoman Christina Karas said. "The decision to admit him overnight is purely precautionary."

Carter was a passenger on a Delta Air Lines flight from Atlanta to Cleveland when he became ill. After the plane landed, he was taken off by rescue crews, said Jackie Mayo, a spokeswoman at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

He was wheeled into an emergency room at MetroHealth on a stretcher and later was up and walking around, said Mary Atkins, who had taken her daughter to the hospital for medical treatment and saw Carter from a nearby room.

"He walked by the room and he was saying he was ready to go," she said. "They had Secret Service everywhere."

President Barack Obama called Carter from Air Force One as he traveled from New Mexico to Wisconsin, White House spokesman Bill Burton said. Carter was feeling great, Burton said.

About 500 people had waited in line Tuesday afternoon at Joseph-Beth Booksellers in suburban Cleveland, where Carter was scheduled to sign copies of his new book, "White House Diary." The event was later canceled, as was a Tuesday night appearance at the Regulator Bookshop in Durham, N.C., according to his publisher.

"It's crazy for an 85-year-old guy to fly ... just to sign some books," said Regulator Bookshop co-owner John Valentine. "He's a brave guy. His health is most important."

Carter was next scheduled to appear at two events in Washington, including one at the Smithsonian Institution, said Kathy Daneman, publicity manager at publisher Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Hallmark, Paris Hilton settle 'that's hot' lawsuit

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)—Hallmark Cards Inc. says a greeting card using Paris Hilton's "that's hot" catch phrase and image was meant as a parody. But the celebrity socialite apparently didn't appreciate the humor.

The Kansas City-based greeting card giant and the hotel heiress have reached a settlement in a 3-year-old lawsuit over the card, a company spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The deal was sealed, and Hallmark spokeswoman Julie O'Dell declined to provide details. Hilton's lawsuit had sought a half-million dollars.

"All I can say is we did settle," O'Dell said. "We were able to reach a mutually acceptable conclusion."

Hilton's attorneys had said the company misappropriated Hilton's image and her catch phrase, which she trademarked in 2007, months before the lawsuit was filed against Hallmark.

"This was a calculated way to use Miss Hilton's actual photo, name and catch phrase by Hallmark to draw attention to Hallmark's product," Brent Blakely, Hilton's attorney, told the AP.

Blakely said the case was significant in that it gave courts direction on how to judge a case dealing with the right of free speech versus the right of someone to control and profit from their persona. A trial had been scheduled to begin in December.

"All trial was going to be about is, what is the commercial value of Paris Hilton's likeness," he said. "In many situations, that is based on comparables. Fortunately in our case, Miss Hilton has numerous endorsement deals and we had a good idea" of her commercial value.

Hallmark attorneys had argued that using Hilton's face on top of a cartoonish image was "transformative," meaning the image had been changed enough that it became Hallmark's own expression, the Kansas City Star reported. The company said the card warranted a "public interest" defense.

But that argument was rejected last year by an appellate court because a birthday card "does not publish or report information," according to the ruling.

O'Dell said it was unclear whether the settlement would change how Hallmark decides which cards to sell.

"Our card decisions are based on consumers and the kind of product they want at any time," she said. "One of our goals is to stay with the times, stay relevant. When we feel we can do that, especially in our humor lines, we probably will."

AP

In this Sept. 20, 2010 file photo, Paris Hilton arrives in county court with her attorney David Chesnoff to plead guilty to reduced charges in her Las Vegas cocaine arrest in Las Vegas.

'Dancing' says bye-bye to boo-gate and Bolton

LOS ANGELES (AP)—On Monday, Michael Bolton performed what was described as the worst jive in "Dancing With the Stars" history. On Tuesday, he was eliminated from the hit ABC show.

Bolton came into Tuesday's episode in last place, earning just 12 points out of 30 for his "Hound Dog"-themed jive with professional partner Chelsie Hightower.

Judge Bruno Tonioli said he hated the dance and thought it was "probably the worst" in the show's 11 seasons.

In this publicity image released by ABC, singer Michael Bolton, right, and his partner, Chelsie Hightower perform on the celebrity dance competition show, "Dancing with the Stars," on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010 in Los Angeles. AP

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which couple is ousted each week.

Before learning his fate, Bolton said he thought Tonioli's remarks were "inappropriate and disrespectful."

"Other than that, it was a phenomenal experience up 'til now," the 57-year-old singer said.

Tuesday's episode also aimed to prove that it was the judges, not audience member Sarah Palin, targeted with boos during Monday's show.

Palin had a front-row seat in the ballroom to watch her daughter Bristol perform, and just before host Tom Bergeron sat down to do a brief on-air interview with the former vice-presidential candidate, emphatic boos were heard off camera. Several media outlets and numerous "Dancing" fans online reported that the disapproval was directed at Palin.

Producers contended that the boos were in response to the score of three eights the judges had given to first-place couple Jennifer Grey and Derek Hough. Ten is the highest score judges can give.

Chatting with Grey and Hough on Tuesday, co-host Brooke Burke introduced a clip from Monday's episode that showed the judges bantering with the audience and defending their scores as the crowd booed. Then Bergeron introduced Palin.

"It seems to me, based on that footage, that the audience was booing because they thought you deserved higher scores," Burke said.

"Palin told me before the show that she was surprised by all the controversy because she was booing you guys, too," Bergeron quipped.

Hough and Grey said they were pleased with their scores. Palin was also in the audience Tuesday.

US high court to reconsider Anna Nicole Smith case

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether the estate of Anna Nicole Smith should get part of the fortune left behind by the elderly Texas billionaire whom Smith married in the mid-1990s.

The justices on Tuesday decided to reconsider an appeals court ruling against Smith's estate, which wants to capture some of the $1.6 billion estate of her husband, J. Howard Marshall, who died in 1995.

Smith

Marshall's will left nearly all his money to his son, E. Pierce Marshall, and nothing to Smith. The younger Marshall died in 2006 and Smith died of a drug overdose in 2007.

Smith challenged the will, claiming that her husband promised to leave her more than $300 million above the $7 million in cash and gifts showered on her during their 14-month marriage.

But the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with a Houston jury that said Marshall was mentally fit and under no undue pressure when he wrote a will leaving nearly all of his $1.6 billion estate to his son and nothing to Smith.

Smith's estate is appealing that ruling.

Marshall's estate said it is ready to fight this ruling and noted other appeals in this case have yet to be heard.

"We have never wavered in our commitment to uphold the clearly stated and carefully documented wishes of the late J. Howard Marshall, II concerning how he wished the estate he created be distributed after his death," a statement from the estate said.

The convoluted dispute over J. Howard Marshall's money has its roots in a Houston strip club where he met Smith. The two were wed in 1994 when he was 89 and she 26. Marshall died the next year and his will left his estate to his son.

Smith challenged the will in a Houston probate court, alleging the billionaire's son illegally coerced his father to exclude the former Playboy model from sharing the estate. She alleged that her husband promised to leave her much more.

While the probate case was pending in Houston, Smith filed for bankruptcy in Los Angeles, alleging in federal court filings that her husband promised her a large share of the estate.

In late 2000, the bankruptcy court awarded Smith $474.75 million, which a federal district court judge reduced to $89.5 million in 2002.

But in the case's most recent trip up to the Supreme Court, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy in March 2009 refused to lift a court order that prevented Smith's estate from collecting that money.

Elaine Marshall, Pierce Marshall's widow, had argued that the order preventing Smith's estate from collecting the money should remain in place while the tangle of competing claims was sorted out.

Utah police investigate plural family for bigamy

In this publicity image released by TLC, the Browns, from left, Janelle, Christine, Kody, Meri, and Robyn from the TLC series, "Sister Wives," are shown. AP

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The family with four wives had hoped its participation on a TLC reality TV show would shed light on polygamy but is now the target of a bigamy investigation by Utah police.

"Sister Wives," which premiered Sunday, chronicles the life of 41-year-old advertising salesman Kody Brown, his four wives, 13 children and three stepchildren. The Browns, of Lehi, have said they hoped that the peek into their lives would help broaden the public's understanding of plural families.

Lehi police are investigating whether the family is violating bigamy laws in plain view on cable TV. Brown is only legally married to Meri but also calls three other women his spouses: Janelle, Christine and Robyn.

"...When we decided to do this show, we knew there would be risks," the Brown family said in a statement Tuesday. "But for the sake of our family, and most importantly, our kids, we felt it was a risk worth taking."

Most polygamist families practice in secret, but it has entered the national dialogue given its portrayal on the HBO scripted drama "Big Love." The modern Mormon church excommunicates members found engaged in the practice, which was disavowed by the church in 1890 as part of a push for Utah's statehood.

On a TLC ad for "Sister Wives," one wife says: "I think we're normal, and then I go out and then I'm like, 'Oh yeah, I can't tell anybody about my normal family.'" Across Utah and parts of the western U.S., an estimated 38,000 self-described fundamentalist Mormons continue to believe and/or practice polygamy, believing it brings exaltation in heaven.

Over the past 10 years, Utah's historically insular polygamist community has worked to educate the public and state agencies about its culture. State agencies now better understand the unique aspects of polygamous culture and plural families are less hesitant to seek help when needed, Principle Voices co-founder Anne Wilde said.

The Brown family's decision to do a reality TV show was sort an extension of that education work, said Wilde, who knows the family well.

Although it is rarely prosecuted, bigamy is a third-degree felony in Utah, punishable by a prison term of up to five years. Under the Utah law, a person can be found guilty of bigamy through cohabitation, not just legal marriage contracts.

Lehi police said the evidence gathered from the probe will be turned over to the Utah County attorney's office for possible prosecution. A message left for Paul was not immediately returned Tuesday.

Utah last prosecuted a polygamist for bigamy in 2001. Tom Green, who was married to five women and drew the attention of Utah authorities after promoting his lifestyle on national TV talk shows, was convicted on bigamy, criminal nonsupport and child rape charges. He spent six years in prison and was released in 2007.

The Utah attorney general's office has investigated the state's secretive polygamous communities, but focused its efforts on cases involving allegations of abuse, sexual assault and fraud, not bigamy.

"It has been our office's position not to pursue cases of bigamy between consenting adults," the attorney general's spokesman, Scott Troxel, said Tuesday. "We want to use our resources wisely."

Wilde said she fears an investigation into the Brown family will instill fear in plural families about going public with their lives.

"If it really goes to a court situation, then our people are going to go right back into isolation," she said.

Former Jackson manager seeks financial records

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's final business manager asked a judge Tuesday to unseal detailed financial records from the singer's estate, arguing that the sealing of the documents could prevent him and other creditors from being paid.

Business manager Tohme Tohme filed a claim saying he is entitled to at least $2.3 million from the estate. The filing also claimed he is entitled to a sizable percentage of revenue from the film "This Is It."

The movie featured clips from Jackson's rehearsals for a series of comeback concerts.

Tohme claims he negotiated the contract for the concerts and is entitled to 15 percent of the revenue from the movie, DVD sales and album.

Tohme's attorneys argued in the filing that he and other creditors should have access to unredacted copies of a report filed last week by estate administrators regarding Jackson's post-death finances.

The motion seeks access to revenue, expense and profit information that is not publicly available.

Jackson estate attorney Howard Weitzman had not seen the motion and said he could not immediately comment.

The estate's filing included a summary of the business deals reached since Jackson's death on June 25, 2009, at age 50. Columbia Pictures paid $60 million for the rights to "This Is It" in a three-way deal between the studio, Jackson's estate and concert promoter AEG Live.

Many of the deals required approval by a Los Angeles judge, who has already sealed some of aspects of the agreement. The estate had argued certain details would harm future negotiations.

Tohme's motion argues that if the detailed financial figures are not publicly released, they should be provided to creditors who have filed claims against Jackson's estate. Some claims have been paid, although others by former Jackson associates have gone unpaid.

Some of the claims are currently the subject of lawsuits.

A hearing on sealing the records and Tohme's motion is scheduled for Oct. 7.

NJ chef featured on TV cooking show kills himself

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey chef who three years ago described "overwhelming" personal debt when he was featured on Gordon Ramsay's "Kitchen Nightmares" show jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River.

The body of 39-year-old Joseph Cerniglia, whose restaurant experienced a renewal since the show, was found floating in the river on Friday. The New York City medical examiner's office ruled it a suicide, agency spokeswoman Grace Burgess said.

Cerniglia owned Campania in Fair Lawn, N.J., about 25 miles west of Manhattan, which he bought in 2006. In 2007, the debt-ridden Italian restaurant was featured on Ramsay's show.

During the broadcast, Cerniglia estimated he owed purveyors about $80,000.

"I'm financially in trouble. The debt of the restaurant alone is overwhelming," he said. "My personal debt—wife, kids, mortgage—that's a lot of debt."

His wife added, "If this business fails, we will lose everything."

"Why did you become a chef-owner if you haven't a clue how to run a business?" Ramsay asks him on the show.

He criticizes the restaurant's large portions, the food quality and speed of service, and chastises Cerniglia for allowing such a childish atmosphere in the kitchen.

Jim Edwards, the culinary director at Chef Central in Paramus and a close friend of Cerniglia's for the last seven years, said he thought his friend benefited from being on Ramsay's show.

"I thought he fared well," Edwards said. "I was never at the restaurant when it wasn't packed."

He said he thought that overall, the show portrayed his friend in a favorable light.

Elisa Ung, the dining columnist for The Record since 2007, said Campania was "one of only a few places that I have returned to repeatedly after a review. The spaghetti and meatballs (equals) heaven."

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Legend Of The Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20
Sam Neil, Geoffrey Rush
Fantasy, Action • Rated PG
Synopsis
Kathryn Lasky's children's book series comes to the screen with this animated adaptation from director Zack Snyder (Watchmen) and Village Roadshow Pictures. The plot details a mythical race of barn owls whose realm is threatened by sinister outside forces.

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:10
Michael Douglas, Shia LeBeouf
Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Famous onscreen villain Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) returns to the big screen with Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps, once again directed by Oliver Stone. This installment promises a "ripped from the headlines" plot, with Gekko teaching co-star Shia LaBeouf the ins and outs of criminal investments. Frost/Nixon's Frank Langella co-stars along with Susan Sarandon.

You Again
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Jamie Lee Curtis, Sigourney Weaver
Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
A woman (Kristen Bell) discovers that her brother is marrying an old arch nemesis of hers from high school in this Buena Vista comedy from director Andy Fickman (Race to Witch Mountain).

Devil
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:40
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:40
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Chris Mesina, Geoffrey Arend
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Alpha And Omega
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Justin Long, Christina Ricci
Children's, Family • Rated PG

The Town
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Ben Affleck, Rebecca Hall
Crime • Rated R

Resident Evil: Afterlife
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter
Action, Horror • Rated R

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Bon Jovi, Alice Cooper up for Rock Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—It could be a blaze of glory for Bon Jovi at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The band has been nominated for the hallowed hall, along with first-timers Donovan, Dr. John, Alice Cooper and Neil Diamond.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame released its list of nominees Tuesday. There were some familiar names: Darlene Love, LL Cool J, Donna Summer and the Beastie Boys have been up for the prestigious honor before.

Other previous nominees include the J. Geils Band; Tom Waits; Chuck Willis; Chic and Joe Tex.

To be eligible, an act must have released its first batch of music at least 25 years ago.

Inductees will be revealed in December, and the ceremony will be in March in New York City.

AP

In this June 7, 2010 file photo, U.S rock band Bon Jovi, from left, guitarist Richie Sambora, keyboardist David Bryan, lead singer Jon Bon Jovi and drummer Tico Torres pose during a photocall at the start of their show in east London.

Gloria Estefan climbs windows during Dolphins game

MIAMI GARDENS, Florida (AP)—Singer Gloria Estefan made a daring climb out a window after getting locked into a stadium suite during a Miami Dolphins football game.

The musician was watching the game against the New York Jets on Sunday from her suite at Sun Life Stadium and was set to introduce Latin singer Enrique Iglesias during the halftime show.

But Estefan was locked inside. A locksmith, security officers and firefighters tried unsuccessfully to unlock her door. So Estefan took matters into her own hands.

WPLG-TV reports that Estefan kicked off her green Yves Saint-Laurent pumps and climbed out the window into the suite next door. She ran out the door and across the field and made it onstage just in time.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

You're Australia's top model! Oops, no, you're not

SYDNEY (AP)—The winner of "Australia's Next Top Model" gave a heartfelt acceptance speech in a live finale—before the host realized she had announced the wrong name. Host Sarah Murdoch on Tuesday night named 19-year-old Kelsey Martinovich the winner of season six of the Fox Television reality show. Minutes later, her hand over her face, Murdoch made an awkward apology. The actual winner, as voted by television viewers, was 18-year-old Amanda Ware. Murdoch said the wrong name was fed to her earpiece. Martinovich was a good sport, hugging Ware and dismissing Murdoch's apologies. The network said Wednesday that Martinovich will get 20,000 Australian dollars and a trip to New York—which are also part of the winner's prize—as compensation for the blunder.

'Lone Star' axed by Fox after just 2 airings

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox network says its prime-time soap "Lone Star" is being pulled off the air after just two airings. Replacing the little-watched new show is the psychological crime drama, "Lie To Me," which begins its third season next Monday at 9 p.m. EDT. Although Fox didn't officially cancel "Lone Star," its fate seemed sealed after Monday's episode, whose audience was even smaller than the 4.1 million viewers who had watched its premiere a week earlier. Praised by critics, the show featured newcomer James Wolk as a charismatic Texas con man living a double life with two beautiful women. With the dire news from Fox on Tuesday, "Lone Star" became the first casualty of the fall TV season, which is little more than a week old.

Alaska checking Bristol Palin's bar stop

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A state investigator is apparently checking whether it was legal for "Dancing with the Stars" contestant Bristol Palin to be in a downtown Anchorage establishment while dancing partner Mark Ballas performed. The question is Palin's age, 19. She could only legally be in Rumrunners Old Towne Bar and Grill last Friday if accompanied by a parent, spouse or legal guardian over 21. State law also would allow her to be there if it's been designated as a bona fide restaurant, and she was there only to eat. The Alaska Dispatch reported Tuesday that a state Alcohol and Control Board investigator visited their office, asking for copies of raw video shot at Ballas' performance. The request was denied. An Alaska Department of Public Safety spokeswoman said they never discuss investigations unless someone is charged.

Dreyfuss honored in US for education initiative

ALBANY, New York (AP) — Oscar winner Richard Dreyfuss is receiving the 2010 Empire State Archives and History Award for his efforts to improve civics education in America's schools. According to the Archives Partnership Trust, the award ceremony was part of a public discussion with nationally prominent Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer scheduled for Tuesday night in Albany, New York. Dreyfuss launched The Dreyfuss Initiative last year to spur interest in strengthening American democracy by promoting civics education. His films include "Jaws" and "The Goodbye Girl," for which he won an Academy Award for best actor. Other recipients of the award include actor Sam Waterston and historians Doris Kearns Goodwin and Henry Louis Gates Jr. The Archives Partnership Trust is a non-profit that supports the New York State Archives.

Rapper Kid Cudi pleads guilty in NY drug case

NEW YORK (AP) — Rapper Kid Cudi has pleaded guilty in New York City to misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance. The Manhattan district attorney's office said Tuesday that the charge will be dismissed if the entertainer stays out of trouble for six months and serves two days of community service. Cudi was arrested June 11. Police said at the time they believed he had cocaine in his pocket. He performed the next day at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in Tennessee. The Cleveland native released his debut album, "Man on the Moon: The End of Day," in 2009. Cudi pleaded guilty last Friday through his lawyer. His next court date is March 23.

'Bueller' actor pleads guilty in sex offender case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The actor who played the principal in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" will serve three years of probation after pleading guilty to failing to update his sex offender registry info. Los Angeles District Attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison says Jeffrey Jones entered the plea Tuesday to a felony charge of failing to update his registry information in June. Jones' registration was required because he pleaded no contest in 2003 to employing a 14-year-old boy to pose for sexually explicit photos. The 64-year-old actor is also required to perform 250 hours of community service. His sentence was first reported by celebrity website TMZ.com. Jones has also appeared in "Beetlejuice" and other films.

Rolling Stones, Dylan dominate Obama's iPod

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's taste in music still tilts toward the classics of his childhood. But with the help of his younger aides—and his daughters—the president says his collection is becoming a bit more hip.

In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine, Obama says his iPod has about 2,000 songs, including ones by Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones. The president's personal aide Reggie Love has improved Obama's rap repertoire, introducing him to artists like Nas and Lil Wayne.

Obama also says his daughters, 12-year-old Malia and 9-year-old Sasha, are getting old enough to start sharing their taste in music with their dad.

The president says music is a great source of joy and solace in the midst of difficult days.

'Mission Impossible' filming starts in Dubai soon

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Dubai has a new mission: To play starring role in the upcoming "Mission Impossible 4."

The Gulf city that hosts the world's tallest building said Tuesday filming will begin on the next installment of the Tom Cruise spy franchise in the coming weeks.

Dubai's media office says the sheikdom expects to play host to more than 400 members of the Mission Impossible 4 crew and cast for at least three weeks.

Dubai in recent years has bankrolled studio facilities and an annual film festival in an effort to establish itself as a regional moviemaking hub.

Among the few western films in which it has featured prominently is political thriller "Syriana." Last year's spy-themed "Duplicity" briefly featured exterior shots of Dubai.

Friend resists choosing sides in couple's breakup

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 3-year-old goddaughter, "Tammy," is one of the most important people in my life. So are her parents, "Sophie" and "Zack." I was friendly with them separately before they got together. As a couple, they selected me to be godmother. They have since split up.

Zack is understanding about my staying neutral and continuing to be friendly with him and his ex. But Sophie gets mad and won't talk to me for weeks if she hears I went to see Tammy on a weekend she's with her daddy.

Even though I am closer to Sophie, Zack is a great father and a good friend. I don't think it's fair that Sophie expects me to take her side. I feel their issues are theirs alone, and my main focus is that my goddaughter have my support regardless of which parent she happens to be with.

Am I doing something wrong? If not, how do I handle Sophie?

HONORED IN OMAHA

DEAR HONORED: You are doing nothing wrong. However, viewed from Sophie's perspective, it may appear that you have "chosen" her ex over her. A way to handle this would be to tell Sophie that you are not visiting Tammy when she's with Zack because you prefer his company over Sophie's. It's that you want your goddaughter to have continuity, and if Sophie is upset with Zack, she shouldn't displace her anger onto you because it's not fair to you or her daughter. And further, if this continues, Sophie will drive a caring friend (you) away.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: In this age of electronic devices, how appropriate is it to take photos at the table in a restaurant? I suppose it depends on the establishment—probably not a problem in a casual buffet environment.

My boyfriend and I like to go to fancy restaurants (on our own and with friends), and we enjoy taking pictures of each other, our friends and the food. How do we handle this? Do other patrons care how many times we "flash" our cameras?

SNAP-HAPPY IN BLOOMINGTON, IND.

DEAR SNAP-HAPPY: When making reservations at an expensive restaurant, ask whether it would be disruptive to take pictures. While some diners might not object, I can think of several reasons why some would find it intrusive. Because some "foodies" enjoy snapping photos of their table and the various dishes as they're presented, it may be possible to be seated in a location where the flash will not be a nuisance. However, the restaurant staff should be warned in advance.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I volunteer at a hospital and help with mail sorting for the patients. I know it is important for patients to receive their mail—even if they are no longer being treated at the hospital.

Abby, please advise your readers that when they send Get Well cards, to always use the person's OWN name—like, "Betty Jones" instead of "Mrs. John Jones." Also, when sending a card or note to someone in the hospital, to always put the patient's home address as the return address on the envelope—not their own. If your readers do this, the person is sure to receive it, even after he or she has been discharged from the hospital.

JUDY IN LORAIN, OHIO

DEAR JUDY: Thank you for two perfectly logical suggestions—which I'm sure the majority of people don't always consider when they're sending their good wishes. Readers, take heed.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOW CAN OUR TIME BE UP?! I JUST DID THE FIRST PROBLEM ON THIS QUIZ! WHERE DID THE TIME GO?!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
GUESS! GUESS! PICK RANDOM NUMBERS! MAYBE A FEW WILL BE RIGHT BY SHEER LUCK! 15! 104! 3! 27!
HAND IT IN, CALVIN. YOUR TIME'S UP.
SIGHHHH
DON'T FORGET WE HAVE A BET ON WHO GETS THE HIGHER GRADE.
THE BET'S OFF! I DON'T GAMBLE! NO BETS!

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By Jim Davis

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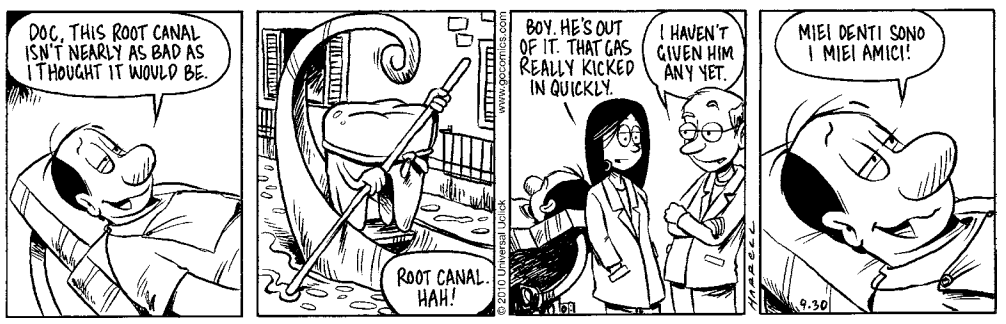
STOP THAT!
YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO. I HAVE THE WHISTLE

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DOC, THIS ROOT CANAL ISN'T NEARLY AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
ROOT CANAL. HAH!
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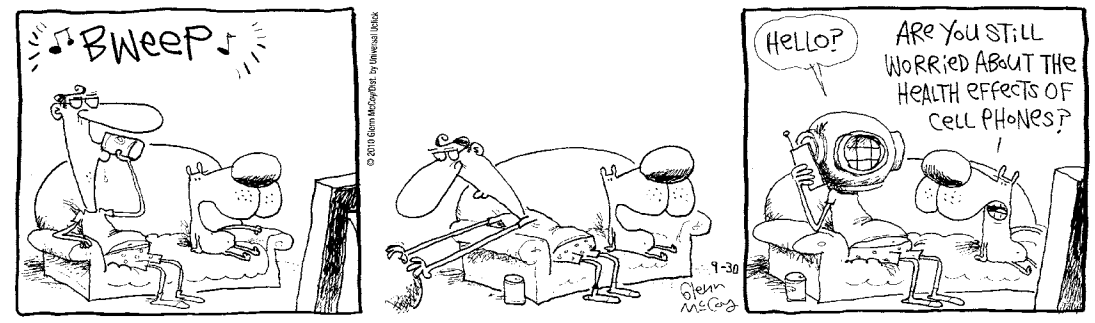
BOY. HE'S OUT OF IT. THAT GAS REALLY KICKED IN QUICKLY.
I HAVEN'T GIVEN HIM ANY YET.
MIEI DENTI SONO I MIEI AMICI!
9-30

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

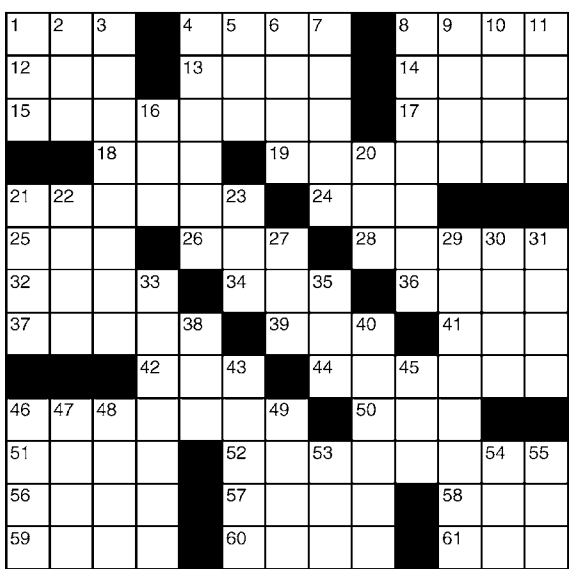
ACROSS
1 Kennel call
4 Binges
8 Unkempt one
12 Zodiac feline
13 Out of the storm
14 Gambling game
15 Pigskin
17 2.54 centimeters
18 Three-man vessel?
19 Burn sluggishly
21 Exhibited ennui
24 Singer DiFranco
25 Punk-rock subgenre
26 Tier
28 Tender
32 Coastal bird
34 Talk on and on
36 Ripped
37 Drew a tattoo?
39 Grand Cherokee, for ex.
41 Inseparable
42 Wahine's gift
44 Pigeonholed
46 Pretend to sing
50 "Go, team!"
51 Sandwich treat
52 Explanatory info
56 "— Free"
57 Took the shuttle
58 Torched
59 Responsibility
60 Pinnacle
61 "CSI" evidence

DOWN
1 TV alien
2 Old Oldsmobile
3 Fancy maneuvering
4 Talk on and on
5 Chicken-king link
6 Solidifies
7 Alabama city
8 Mountaintop access
9 Give for a while
10 Never again?
11 Physicist Niels
16 Large cask
20 Yoko of music
21 Bigfoot's cousin
22 "So be it"
23 Pooch
27 Existed
29 Sturdy place to stand
30 Sea eagle
31 Walter — Army Medical Center
33 1950s sitcom family
35 Clear the tables
38 Susan of "L.A. Law"
40 Whirlpool
43 Farther down the page
45 Scooted
46 Timber wolf
47 Press agent?
48 Indiana city
49 Hen pen
53 Praise in verse
54 Stannum
55 Greek vowel

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	B	E	■	C	O	I	L	■	S	O	L	E
D	A	M	■	A	F	R	O	■	A	V	E	R
O	B	I	■	S	T	A	T	E	F	A	I	R
S	A	R	A	H	■	■	S	E	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	P	E	R	M	■	C	R	I	E	D
F	A	I	R	W	A	Y	S	■	I	N	T	O
A	R	C	■	S	M	O	T	E	■	C	U	E
K	E	E	P	■	P	L	A	Y	F	A	I	R
E	A	S	E	S	■	D	R	E	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	O	O	■	■	L	Y	I	N	G
F	A	I	R	Y	T	A	L	E	■	R	I	O
O	L	I	O	■	T	W	I	T	■	O	N	O
B	A	I	L	■	O	L	D	S	■	N	E	D

Yesterday's answer 9-30



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kieran Culkin, 28; Lacey Chabert, 28; Marion Cotillard, 35; Jenna Elfman, 39

Happy Birthday: Put on your creative thinking cap and make some important decisions that can alter your future. Move in a direction better suited to your personality. Doing what's best for you will bring good results. If you are happy with the life you have built, you will bring joy to those around you. Start now and don't look back. Your numbers are 2, 7, 25, 28, 31, 34, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Expect to experience difficulties with people wanting too much or asking for the impossible. Problems at home can include a difference of opinion with someone you live with or a physical problem to your environment that needs immediate attention. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Take ahold of your life and make whatever amendments are required in order to achieve the happiness and satisfaction you deserve. A romantic situation can go either way, depending on how attentive you are. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone from your past of whom you think fondly may help you out of a professional situation you face. Make contact and your efforts will help to stabilize your personal life as well. Networking will be a great vehicle to help you get ahead. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Use your emotions to help you get your way with children or your current lover. It's how you express your needs that will give you the upper hand. Take advantage of an opportunity for a position or project that interests you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let an emotional display ruin your chance to get ahead. If you focus on what you have to offer, you will stand a better chance of joining forces with those working toward a similar goal. A disciplined, self-reliant attitude will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't question the facts. It's a waste of time and will only stand in the way of progress. Love is on the rise and the opportunity to start a new relationship or enhance the one you are currently in should be on your agenda. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let depression hold you back. You may be feeling the pangs of pressure from burdens and added responsibilities, but that doesn't mean you should stop trying. Use your imagination and you will find the solutions. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can make a difference if you are open and honest about your situation and what you intend to do about it. Sharing your concerns will give you a different perspective. Change can be good and can make your life better. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Expect to face opposition and unexpected changes. Overreacting will be your downfall when dealing with friends, relatives and peers. Listen first. You may change your mind once you hear what everyone else thinks and plans to do. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Lay your cards on the table. Once you know where everyone else stands, it will be easier to proceed in a fashion that allows you control. Love is in the stars, so spend time with someone you fancy. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You may want to take precautions if you are traveling or dealing with matters that can influence your lifestyle or a relationship that means a lot to you. If you face situations that need massaging, it's best to take care of them face-to-face. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Home and family should be your target for improvements. Find ways to bring you all closer together. Instigate projects that enhance your family life physically, emotionally, mentally and financially. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, impulsive and unpredictable. You are exciting and engaging and you stand up for your beliefs.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9					
6			7	4				1
		3	1			6		
						2	5	3
	3			9			7	
8	2	1						
		9			2	3		
7				1	9			5
					6			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	2	5	4	3	1	9	8	6
8	9	3	5	7	6	4	2	1
1	6	4	2	9	8	5	3	7
3	1	7	9	8	5	6	4	2
4	8	9	6	1	2	7	5	3
6	5	2	3	4	7	1	9	8
5	3	6	1	2	9	8	7	4
2	7	1	8	5	4	3	6	9
9	4	8	7	6	3	2	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ROMAN AMPHITHEATERS **Solution: 8 letters**

O	R	S	E	C	N	A	M	R	O	F	R	E	P	R
B	U	R	(O)	(P)	(E)	(N)	I	M	E	S	U	T	I	T
S	I	O	A	R	L	E	S	R	E	L	G	G	U	J
E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N	M	E	N	T	R	D
R	S	A	T	R	E	A	Y	A	A	N	O	R	E	V
V	T	I	H	A	U	M	N	S	R	M	C	V	M	S
E	R	D	E	L	R	T	U	E	R	E	R	S	O	C
R	U	A	A	L	M	C	C	E	R	E	A	L	D	I
S	C	L	T	Y	T	I	S	E	S	A	C	E	E	T
E	T	G	R	N	N	T	M	E	T	S	E	V	L	A
R	U	A	E	E	O	O	R	E	E	I	O	E	E	B
A	R	V	N	R	N	P	D	A	S	N	H	L	D	O
U	E	O	E	I	T	I	T	E	V	R	U	C	O	R
Q	T	D	E	S	S	S	O	U	T	D	O	O	R	C
S	T	S	U	O	J	S	C	I	T	S	U	O	C	A

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Yesterday's Answer: Costume

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WHATZIT Solution:
Poles apart

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Find today's solution in this section

Yankees and Rays clinch playoff berths

TORONTO (AP)—The New York Yankees clinched their 15th postseason berth in the past 16 years with a 6-1 win over the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday.

New York starter C.C. Sabathia (21-7) allowed one run in 8 1-3 innings to match Andy Pettitte's 21 wins in 1996 and 2003 for the most victories by a Yankee since Ron Guidry got 22 in 1985.

Sabathia, who struck out eight, has a career record of 5-1 with a 2.39 ERA in six starts at Rogers Centre.

Thea Yankees have reached the postseason every year but one since 1996, with the absence coming in 2008 when they finished third in the AL East, behind Tampa Bay and Boston.

New York remains half a game behind the Rays in the fight over the honor of AL East winner.

Making his third career start, Toronto's Kyle Drabek (0-3) allowed three runs in six innings.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Rafael Soriano sprays champagne over fans after the Rays clinched a playoff berth with a 5-0 win over the Baltimore Orioles in a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

White Sox 5, Red Sox 4

In Chicago, the home team fought back to beat Boston, as the Red Sox bowed out of playoff contention.

Paul Konerko tied the game in the eighth inning with a run-scoring double and Dayan Viciedo won it with a pinch-hit RBI single in the ninth.

Chris Sale (2-1) pitched two scoreless innings for the win for the White Sox, who snapped a seven-game home losing streak.

Juan Pierre singled with one out in the ninth off Michael Bowden (0-1). He stole second and third before Mark Teahen walked. Viciedo ended the game with a single.

Royals 10, Twins 1

In Kansas City, Kila Ka'aihue hit two home runs and drove in a career-high four runs as Kansas City thrashed Minnesota.

The Twins have dropped a season-worst five straight since clinching the AL Central title.

Ka'aihue hit a three-run homer in the first off Nick Blackburn (10-11), then led off the second with another long shot for his first career multihomer game.

He almost had a third in the seventh, sending a drive off the right-field bullpen fence for his first big league triple.

Royals starter Sean O'Sullivan (4-6) held the Twins to one run in six-plus innings.

Rays 5, Orioles 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Tampa Bay clinched its a playoff berth by beating Baltimore.

Rays starter David Price pitched eight scoreless innings, allowing only one runner past second. He struck out eight and walked none in what likely will be his final start of the regular season.

Carl Crawford and Carlos Pena hit solo homers off Orioles starter Brad Bergensen (8-11).

Angels 4, Athletics 2

In Anaheim, Torii Hunter opened the scoring with a home run and his center field replacement, rookie Peter Bourjos, robbed Landon Powell of a homer to lead Los Angeles over Oakland.

Bourjos also lost a home run when a video replay showed his drive toward the left field pole was foul, not fair as the umpire had ruled. Instead of a three-run homer, Bourjos returned to the plate and flied out.

Angels starter Dan Haren (4-4) allowed two runs over six innings, striking out five and walking one.

A's starter Dallas Braden (10-14) gave up 10 hits over seven innings.

Mariners 3, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Felix Hernandez allowed only one run over eight innings to guide Seattle past AL West champion Texas.

Hernandez (13-12) became the first pitcher since Randy Johnson in 2002 and only the seventh since 1980 to have a season with 30 starts in which he went at least six innings while conceding three earned runs or fewer. He lowered his AL-best ERA to 2.27 in what might have been his last start of the season.

Justin Smoak, traded from Texas to Seattle as part of the Cliff Lee deal, hit a two-run homer in the fourth off Scott Feldman (7-11) to snap a 1-1 tie. The rookie homered twice in as many nights against his former team.

Braves 3, Marlins 2

In Atlanta, the Atlanta Braves boosted their National League wild-card hopes with a win over Florida Marlins.

Eric Hinske hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning and Atlanta improved its wild card chances.

The Braves' win, coupled with San Diego's loss, gave Atlanta a 1-1/2 game lead in the wild-card race.

Trailing 1-0, the Braves rallied for three runs in the seventh off Anibal Sanchez (12-12). Brooks Conrad knocked in the first run with a triple. Eric Hinske hit a two-run homer to give Atlanta a 3-1 lead.

Atlanta reliever Craig Kimbrel (4-0) got the win with a hitless seventh, and Billy Wagner earned his 36th save with a scoreless ninth.

Reds 3, Astros 2

In Cincinnati, the hosts clinched the NL Central title, earning a first trip to the playoffs in 15 years, with a win over Houston.

Jay Bruce hit a game-ending line-drive homer off Tim Byrdak (2-2) with the first pitch of the bottom of the ninth, sparking fireworks overhead.

Cincinnati has won with its last at-bat 22 times this season.

Reds closer Aroldis Chapman (2-2) pitched a perfect ninth.

Dusty Baker joined Bill McKechnie as the only managers to lead three different NL teams to the playoffs. Baker has made it with San Francisco and the Chicago Cubs.

Cincinnati finished fourth last season, its second under Baker, but the franchise thought it had the makings of something and kept the roster intact.

The Reds have struggled against other top teams. They have gone 58-28 against losing teams, only 30-41 against those with .500 or better records.

Nationals 2, Phillies 1

In Washington, Adam Dunn led off the bottom of the ninth with his 38th homer of the season, to give Washington victory over Philadelphia.

Dunn's homer off Jose Contreras (6-4) did little to dampen enthusiasm among a Philadelphia team preparing for the playoffs.

Nationals closer Drew Storen (4-4) earned the win by pitching the ninth.

Dodgers 9, Rockies 7

In Denver, Los Angeles eliminated Colorado from the playoff race.

The Rockies' loss, combined with Atlanta's win over Florida and San Francisco's defeat of Arizona, ended Colorado's chances of getting the wild card.

Casey Blake homered twice and Rafael Furcal had two triples for the Dodgers, who blew a four-run lead but came back in the eighth off Rockies reliever Octavio Dotel (3-4). Colorado has lost eight of nine.

L.A. reliever Ronald Bellisario (3-1) got the win, pitching two-thirds of an inning.

Cubs 5, Padres 2

In San Diego, the hosts dropped back sharply in the wild-card race by losing to Chicago.

Cubs slugger Alfonso Soriano homered twice, including a two-run shot off struggling San Diego ace Mat Latos (14-9), who fumed after Chicago scored two unearned runs in the fifth, and lost his fourth straight start, his worst stretch this season.

The Padres led the NL West by 6-1/2 games a month ago, but now trail leader San Francisco by two games.

Chicago starter Ryan Dempster (15-11) struck out nine in seven innings.

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 2

In San Francisco, Juan Uribe matched a career best with his 23rd home run as San Francisco increased its NL West lead by beating Arizona.

Uribe hit a tying solo drive leading off the fourth for the Giants, who have a magic number of four to clinch their first playoff berth since 2003.

San Francisco starter Jonathan Sanchez (12-9) struck out six in six innings to reach 200 Ks in a season for the first time in his career.

Arizona's Rodrigo Lopez (7-15) went 5 2-3 innings and took the loss.

Mets 4, Brewers 3

In New York, light-hitting New York rookie Ruben Tejada laced a two-run double in the bottom of the ninth to lift the Mets over Milwaukee.

Brewers closer John Axford (8-2) escaped an eighth-inning jam, but Ike Davis opened the ninth with a double. Josh Thole got a one-out single that put runners at the corners and Tejada drove the next pitch up the left-center alley for his third hit, and second double, of the game.

The Mets opened their final homestand of the season with their third consecutive win.

New York's Elmer Dessens (4-2) worked a perfect ninth inning for the win.

Pirates 7, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Garrett Jones homered on a three-hit night and drove in three runs as Pittsburgh downed St. Louis.

St. Louis was officially eliminated from playoff contention when Cincinnati won. The Cardinals had a 12-6 record against the Reds this season, but is 46-50 against teams with a losing record.

Brian Burres pitched effectively into the sixth inning for the Pirates.

Sources: Armstrong team staffer to talk to jury

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A staff member of Lance Armstrong's Team RadioShack, who also has a connection to Floyd Landis, is expected to testify Wednesday before a grand jury investigating allegations of doping in professional cycling, two people with knowledge of the probe said.

Allen Lim, an exercise physiologist whom Landis said helped him cheat with doping during his career, was called to appear before the panel in Los Angeles, according to the two people, who spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the investigation was ongoing.

Lim would be the latest witness in a probe that has featured some of cycling's biggest names, including Armstrong, Landis and Tour de France winner Greg LeMond.

Lim, who joined Team RadioShack for the 2010 season, has denied the allegations by Landis, who also accused seven-time Tour winner Armstrong of doping.

One of the people who spoke on condition of anonymity also told The Associated Press that former cyclist Kevin Livingston also has been subpoenaed and could testify before the grand jury as early as Wednesday. Livingston was a U.S. Postal Service team member with Armstrong in 2000.

Armstrong became a more important figure in the probe this spring after Landis dropped long-standing denials and admitted he used performance-enhancing drugs. In doing so, he accused Armstrong and others of systematic drug use. Landis won the Tour in 2006 but was stripped of his title for doping.

Landis also made his accusations in an e-mail, and Lim was mentioned in it.

Armstrong has vehemently denied the accusations, and his attorney has described Landis as a "serial liar."

Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, declined comment when asked about whether Lim and Livingston were appearing before the grand jury.

Last week, Stephanie McIlvain, a longtime Armstrong friend, spent a day testifying before the grand jury. Her attorney later said McIlvain told the panel she had never heard Armstrong admit that he used banned substances.

McIlvain was present in the hospital room where Armstrong was being treated for cancer in 1996, when former teammate Frankie Andreu and his wife, Betsy, claim the cyclist told doctors he used performance-enhancing drugs.

Armstrong has denied that he cheated—or that he made such a statement—and McIlvain has previously testified in a civil case that she didn't hear Armstrong admit to doping in that conversation.

A fiery James takes the court with Heat

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AP)—On Day 1, LeBron James looked perfectly comfortable in new surroundings.

He pumped his fist after passing over a double-team and setting Joel Anthony up for a dunk. He got wide-eyed after breaking free in a defensive drill for a thunderous slam that left teammates more than impressed. He shouted instructions during drills, then got into an animated argument with Dwyane Wade over a scoring dispute as practice was ending.

"That's just me," James said.

That's who the Miami Heat wanted.

The NBA's reigning two-time MVP went through his first full practice with the Heat on Tuesday, a workout so intense even coach Erik Spoelstra was dripping sweat when the first session of training camp was over at a U.S. Air Force installation on Florida's Panhandle. A snaking line of reporters and camera crews surrounded nearly half the court, and James gave them a memorable show.

"It's not normal," James said. "It's not normal just yet. It's a new beginning for me. I don't feel like a rookie but I feel like it's a new start. I've been around training camps before, but it's not normal. You guys know it's not normal. But as the year goes on, with the team getting to know each other, I continue to get to know you ... you get more comfortable with one another."

He'd put on the Heat practice uniform before, doing so over the summer after joining Miami and spurning an offer to remain with the Cleveland Cavaliers, essentially his hometown team and the place where he grew into a global icon over his first seven pro seasons.

AP

Miami Heat's LeBron James, left, and Dwyane Wade chat after participating in NBA basketball training camp, Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010 in Hurlburt Field, Fla.

And he wasn't laid-back in his first formal Miami practice. Quite the contrary.

"That's what we're trying to get from everybody, no possessions off, to have that mentality," Spoelstra said. "It was a good start."

Miami arrived 12 hours before its first practice amid fanfare, a large crowd of military personnel packed into a hangar to greet the team that decided for many reasons to hold their weeklong camp about 650 miles from home. Col. Michael T. Plehn, commander of Hurlburt Field's 1st Special Operations Wing, had a midcourt seat alongside Heat president Pat Riley for practice.

Players posed for pictures with some reporters after practice, a sight that rarely, if ever, happens in Miami.

"We can train here side by side with some of the best to do it," Wade said, referring to the airmen stationed at Hurlburt and nearby Eglin Air Force Base. "So for us, it's an honor and a privilege to be here."

In Miami, interest has apparently never been higher. The Heat said more than 20,000 single-game tickets for home contests were sold Tuesday, the top one-day total in franchise history—and noted that none of the 41 regular-season matchups has even sold out yet.

There will be many non-traditional events on the Heat itinerary this week, including guest speakers, meet-and-greets with military members, even a chance for players to go through real training—doing things like loading (dummy) bombs and navigating through simulated battle situations—alongside airmen.

That being said, the trip is about basketball.

"It is, and it was very intense from start to finish," Heat forward Udonis Haslem said. "The intensity was high. No one was slacking. We got our work done. Everything was good."

Spoelstra said he isn't changing much of the Heat structure for this camp. Nonetheless, given all the roster revamping—Mike Miller, Eddie House, Zydrunas Ilgauskas and other new faces joined the fray as well—the structure of things might change on its own.

There's already clear competition for two starting spots, plus plenty of minutes in what's likely to be a nine-man rotation when the season opens for real Oct. 26 against the defending Eastern Conference champion Boston Celtics.

In short, camp will be exactly the way James, Wade and Spoelstra would prefer: Tough.

"I think it pushes us," said forward Chris Bosh, Miami's other marquee free-agent acquisition of the summer, whose decision helped pave the way for James to join the Heat. "The intensity stays up because there's so much talent. These guys really want to win and we know what it takes to win. It's not easy."

Wade was guarding James at times during the first practice of the season, with the drills getting so heated that even Spoelstra was getting low into textbook defensive position. Bodies flew everywhere, like when Juwan Howard unintentionally leveled James Jones while trying to defend a 3-point attempt. And it was heated, especially when Wade and James were trying to persuade assistant coach Bob McAdoo—a Hall of Fame player—that he had the score wrong of a drill. After all, a down and back sprint was at stake.

James won the discussion, by the way, so off on a run Wade went.

"I was just trying to argue," Wade said. "I just wanted to get in on the argument."

James talked Tuesday of how much it means to him to train at a military installation, especially after having worn a Team USA uniform—Olympics style—of his own in the past. He talked again of how much he likes being around his new teammates. He also talked of how the Heat should have championship expectations.

He did a lot of talking on the court as well.

Clearly, fitting in to the Heat world won't be an awkward process.

"I've always been vocal," James said. "I'm always going to continue to be a leader, no matter what team I'm on."

Nuggets' Anthony focuses on hoops, not the hoopla

DENVER (AP)—Carmelo Anthony is focused on hoops, not the hoopla surrounding his future in Denver.

Anthony joined his Nuggets teammates on the first day of training camp Tuesday, calling the court his "safe haven," a place where he doesn't have to "deal with all the other stuff."

For now, Anthony remains a member of the Nuggets after a person with knowledge of the discussions said a four-way deal that would have sent Anthony to New Jersey was "dead." The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the trade.

Still, Anthony's days in Denver could very well be numbered.

Anthony's powder blue jersey, soaked in sweat after a more than two-hour practice, was proof of an honest day's work Tuesday.

The All-Star forward became almost agitated when asked if he might give anything less than 100 percent considering his uncertainty with the team.

"I love the game too much to disrespect the game like that," said Anthony, who averaged 28.2 points last season in leading the Nuggets to their second straight Northwest Division title. "Anytime I step on the court, I'm going to give it my all, regardless of what's going on, what's the situation.

"This is basketball. I focus on basketball—it's something I know how to do and I love to do. As far as my effort on the court, nobody can question that."

Nuggets coach George Karl gave Anthony an "A" for his effort after practice, saying he thought his star was "very professional, very mature."

Karl remains hopeful that Anthony will stick around.

Anthony has yet to sign off on a three-year, $65 million extension that's been on the table since June, leading the Nuggets to explore trade options. The potential trade involving Denver, New Jersey, Charlotte and Utah hit a road block over the weekend and then withered when a deal wasn't reached by an imposed deadline of Tuesday.

"The perfect storm in my mind is to keep Melo, convince him that this is the best place for him, that this is where he has to win a championship," Karl said.

Karl made his return to practice Tuesday after missing the end of last season while undergoing treatment for throat and neck cancer. His voice still raspy, Karl carried around a whistle to get the attention of his players. But he only used it in a joking manner.

"It's fun to be back. It's fun to get the butterflies," Karl said. "It's fun to interact with your basketball family."

Karl couldn't chat for long—four minutes at a time tops. With such a veteran team, though, he really didn't need to do much instructing.

"All he has to do is say it once," Anthony said, grinning. "He sounds good, he looks good."

Just how much longer Karl might be coaching Anthony remains unclear. The two are hoping to get together for a chat sometime this week.

Anthony has one caveat: The conversation must remain on hoops - no sales pitches.

"I want to focus on basketball right now," Anthony said. "If he wants to sit and talk to me about what to do tomorrow at practice or the next day, then we can sit down and talk about that."

One of the reasons forward Al Harrington signed with Denver over Dallas in July was because of the chance to suit up with Anthony.

Even with trade rumors swirling, Harrington, a 13-year veteran, still believes Anthony will stay put.

"I'm optimistic," he said.

New Nets coach Avery Johnson hasn't gotten caught up in the trade speculation and talk, preferring to go about the task of turning around his team.

"I know that I love our guys, love the guys who are here," Johnson said. "We're not a distracted team at all."

Johnson said first-round draft pick Derrick Favors hasn't been bothered by the trade talk. Favors was one of the principal players in the Anthony deal.

"Favors has been one of our best players so far," Johnson said. "He's doing a nice job."

Timberwolves forward Love gets MRI on knee

MANKATO, Minn. (AP)—Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Love had an MRI on his swollen right knee on Tuesday.

The exam showed no significant damage, only some mild inflammation.

Love missed the first practice on Tuesday morning to go to the Twin Cities for the exam. But he returned and participated fully in the evening practice.

Love says that his knee feels fine and that there is no concern going forward.

The team says that there's no need to monitor the situation and that the Wolves will hold him out of practice if the swelling returns.

Love averaged 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves last season. He also was a valuable reserve for Team USA in its gold-medal run in the world championships this summer.

Ferrera Builders still undefeated in QQ caging

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Ferrera Builders remained the only undefeated team in the QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup after downing Cellular Pro, 86-80, and Buraot, 79-78, last Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

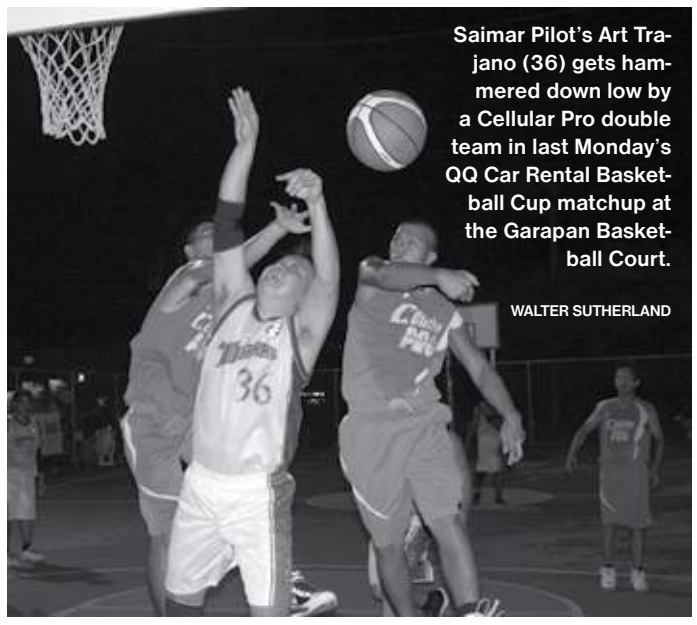
The twin victories improved Ferrera Builders' win-loss record to 4-0, while Cellular Pro and Buraot fell to even 2-2 slates.

Ferrera Builders and Cellular Pro's continuation game followed the first game between the latter and Saimar Pilots and it picked up at 75-all with 2:36 left in the fourth quarter.

Before rain halted the Ferrera Builders-Cellular Pro matchup last Sept. 20, Ferrera Builders maintained the lead for majority of the game.

Ferrera Builders opened up a nine-point lead, 23-24, in the opening quarter. James Abuy led the way for Ferrera Builders with a pair of 3-balls and eight points.

Cellular Pro then fought back to make it a two-possession game, 39-43, at the half, but



Saimar Pilot's Art Trajano (36) gets hammered down low by a Cellular Pro double team in last Monday's QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup matchup at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Ferrera Builders came alive again in the third to stretch it to a 13-point advantage, 67-54, heading into the final canto.

Roy Hernandez led the comeback in the second quarter for Cellular Pro with nine markers, before Ferrera Builders' Wowie Abuel answered with nine of his own in the third.

In the continuation last Monday, Ferrera Builders big men Kae Bernardo and Rex Yabut pumped in six and four points, respectively, in the final 2:36, while the team's stout defense secured the win by holding Cellular Pro to only five markers during the span.

Bernardo led the victors with 15 points, while Abuel chipped in 11. Hernandez, meanwhile, shone in the loss with 27 markers.

One of the most exciting games of the season, meanwhile, took place in the last game of the night between Ferrera Builders and a fighting Buraot team.

After trailing by eight to begin the fourth, Buraot battled back to within one with 10 seconds left with a chance to tie or even take the lead after Dave Sablan was fouled on a drive toward the hoop.

The prolific swingman, however, uncharacteristically missed both shots, but what's worse was Buraot came up with the rebound and missed two put back attempts right under the basket as the buzzer went off.

This one may have slipped through Buraot's fingers, but Ferrera Builders did maintain control of the game for the majority of the contest.

Sablan was contained to 21 points, however he did receive a combined 35 points in support from Gil Gapor and Angelo Fernando.

On Ferrera Builders' side, Gilbert Miranda scored 22 markers to lead the team with Abuy and Bernardo complementing him with 19 and 18 points, respectively.

Earlier, Cellular Pro regrouped after trailing by five at halftime to rally past Saimar Pilots, 60-55, in the first game of the evening's tripleheader.

Both teams looked a little sloppy in this match. Many of the shots were from close range, but both teams struggled to get the ball to fall in. Saimar Pilots clung to a small lead in the first half by winning the rebound battle early in the game.

However, Cellular Pro made adjustments after halftime and found some offense in the second half to mount their comeback.

Down by a handful at halftime, 27-32, Cellular Pro came back to tie the game at 39-all heading into the final period.

Roger Herrera then came alive in the clutch with 11 points to help Cellular Pro turn the table against the Pilots.

Herrera went on to lead his team with 17 point, while Lerio turned in 25 points in a losing effort for Saimar Pilots.

First Game

Cellular Pro 60 – Herrera 17, Palacios 14, Pablo 11, Hernandez 6, Mongami 4, Ritual 4, Dulfo 2.

Saimar Pilots 55 – Lerio 25, Capalad 8, L. Itaas 8, Musni 5, Trajano 4, Archangel 3, J. Itaas 2, Ong 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-20, 27-32, 39-37, 60-55.

Second Game

Ferrera Builders 86 – Bernardo 15, Abuel 11, Miranda 10, Abuy 8, Abedes 7, Demapan 7, Galulu 6, Yabut 6, Mortos 5, David 4, Serrano 4.

Cellular Pro 80 – Hernandez 27, Herrera 17, Ritual 12, Rotap 8, Palacios 7, Dulfo 4, Cabrera 3, Pablo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-14, 43-39, 67-54, 86-80.

Third Game

Fererra Builders 79 – Miranda 22, Abuy 19, Bernardo 18, Yabut 7, Abuel 4, David 4, Abedes 2, Mortos 2.

Buraot 78 – Sablan 21, Gapor 19, Fernando 16, Lee 8, Swain 6, Reyes 4, Achas 2, Odicta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-14, 40-39, 63-55, 79-78.

Sonics cruise by Agape, 73-39

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Sonics improved their win-loss record to a pair of wins with a loss after pummeling Agape, 73-39, in last Tuesday's Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball U19 matchup in Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Agape, meanwhile, suffered its fourth loss of the year and has yet to notch a mark in the winner's column.

Agape never recovered from their slow 12-point start in the first half and the Sonics' margin grew even more out of hand later in the second half. Tuesday's mismatch panned out to the Sonics' starters being allotted a day off.

Nevertheless, the Sonic's bench rose to the occasion and took full advantage of the extra playing time.

The Sonics' Leo Galarse and Melvin Cadiang led the team with 15 and 13 points, respectively. Rainhold Ferrer and Pedro Castro led Agape with 13 and 11 in a losing effort.

Sonics 73 – Galarse 15, Cadiang 13, Villanueva 9, Elcanea 6, Ajoste 5, Del Rosario 4, Jeon 4, Palalcios 4, Sula 4, Tudela 4, Salas 3, Barbo 2.

Agape 39 – Ferrer 13, Castro 11, Jun 4, Pagarao 3, Michael 2, Norita 2, Saturno 2, Weilang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-6, 34-12, 51-28, 73-39.

Masters caging meeting today

Master Basketball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands Board will have an organization meeting for its upcoming 40A and 45A Masters Basketball League today, Sept. 30, 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

All interested teams, players, and sponsors are invited to attend. The entrance fee to participate this season is $350 per team. Payments should be made to Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI, P.O. Box 504614 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

At the meeting, MBFNMI logo patches to be attached on all team uniforms will be distributed at zero cost.

The organization said it is important that all coaches and team captains attend the meeting to address potential concerns and to communicate important topics before the kick-off date next month. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

VISMINDA

From Page 28

point cushion, 80-71.

VisMinda hung in there despite babying a couple of easy shots, going into the last two minutes of the match.

Pablo led Laguna's losing cause, tallying 25 markers, while Illahi and Dennis Pachecho chipped in 18 and 12, respectively. Palacios contributed 10.

Pachecho had nine of his total points in the first period, helping Laguna tie the game, 22-all. VisMinda then took the lead at the break, 45-38, after going to its bench.

VisMinda's starters then took charge in the third period with Abuy finally hitting his shots from downtown to keep the team in front.

Ocampo picked up where Abuy left off in the fourth quarter and VisMinda drew contribution from Danny Bicera (seven points) to win its first game in the masters division playoffs.

Meanwhile, the first playoff game in the open division between MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt and Bayani-Soul Jazz was rained out with the former ahead by 21 points, 75-54, 4:05 to go in the fourth period.

The game will resume after the first match tonight. The first game set for 6:30pm will have MAFEA-Ebisuya battling MDX-Monster PTC. In the open division, Cavite will take on NMBA-Island Apparel.

VisMinda 93 – Ocampo 24, Abuy 20, Bicera 10, Montano 8, Abedes 8, Brien 6, Alipio 6, De La Torre 5, Cosino 4.

Laguna Moonlight 88 – Pablo 25, Illahi 18, Pachecho 12, Palacios 10, Lopez 9, Villegas 8, Galulu 6, Darag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-22,

LIA

From Page 28

CNMI national mark, eclipsing the 29-year-old record of Emiliana Quitugua.

Quitugua posted 34.68m during the javelin throw competition in the first Pacific Mini Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands in 1981.

The 16-year-old Rangamar also competed in the women's long jump last Friday and almost made it to the medal podium. She logged 4.45m in the long jump to finish fourth behind New Zealand's Portia Bing (5.70m) and Greer Alsop (5.48m) and Tonga's Kalina Mama'o (5.08m).

Also scheduled last Friday was the women's 800m run with Reylynn Sapong placing fourth with her time of two minutes and 52.20 seconds, missing the medal podium by only one notch.

Australia's Chelsea Dartnell won the event with a time of 2:19.36, followed by Papua New Guinea's Tuna Tine (2:19.39) and Donna Koniel (2:22.79).

Other CNMI bets who saw action in the tournament last Friday was Ryan Ichihara. Ichihara timed in at 24.84 seconds in the 200m run and failed to advance to the next round. Fiji Ratu Banuve Tabakaucoro topped the qualifying run with his time of 21.82 seconds and also won the finals after clocking a better time of 21.69 seconds.

The lean CNMI Team capped its campaign in the biennial tournament with Ichihara and Brandon Phillip competing in the 100m race and long jump. Ichihara completed the 100m sprint in 12.10 seconds to finish third in his heat, while Phillip was second with a time of 12.13 seconds. Both CNMI runners faltered in their bid to march to the next round.

In the long jump, Ichihara tallied 5.55m, while Phillip committed fouls.

Douglas Dillay was the fifth CNMI athlete to participate in the tournament Land Down Under and he had his event (800m) in the first day of the competition last Thursday. He recorded 2:12.69 in the qualifying heat, besting three other runners and finishing 10th, two notches short of making it to the next round.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

Tan is looking forward to setting new marks in the 11 to 12 age group's 400m and 1,500m freestyle and 200m backstroke; Yanai in the 50m and 100m freestyle in the 6 to 8 age group; and Toda in the 9 to 10 age group's 200m breaststroke.

The meet this Saturday will be the first regular tournament that Tsunami Saipan and SSC swimmers will be competing in since the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau.

Tsunami Saipan had Staal, Kensuke and Shin Kimura, and Rezne Wong representing the Commonwealth to the quadrennial event and teaming up for the most medals (gold and total) won by any CNMI squad in Palau. Wong claimed 13 gold medals and one silver, Staal had six gold medals, Kensuke earned four, and Shin went home with three.

Saipan Swim Club had seven representatives on the CNMI Team in coaches/swimmers Michael Villagomez and Tamiko Winkfield, Grace and Andrew Kimball, Junior Pamaran, Michael Moran Jr., and Junior Pamaran.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Tampa Bay	94	63	.599	–
z-New York	94	64	.595	1/2
Boston	87	70	.554	7
Toronto	81	76	.516	13
Baltimore	62	95	.395	32

Central Division

x-Minnesota	92	65	.586	–
Chicago	84	73	.535	8
Detroit	80	76	.513	11 1/2
Cleveland	66	91	.420	26
Kansas City	65	92	.414	27

West Division

x-Texas	87	70	.554	–
Los Angeles	77	80	.490	10
Oakland	77	80	.490	10
Seattle	61	96	.389	26

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Philadelphia	94	64	.595	–
Atlanta	89	69	.563	5
New York	77	79	.494	16
Florida	77	80	.490	16 1/2
Washington	68	90	.430	26

Central Division

x-Cincinnati	88	69	.561	–
St. Louis	81	76	.516	7
Houston	74	83	.471	14
Milwaukee	73	83	.468	14 1/2
Chicago	72	85	.459	16
Pittsburgh	56	101	.357	32

West Division

San Francisco	89	68	.567	–
San Diego	87	70	.554	2
Colorado	83	74	.529	6
Los Angeles	77	81	.487	12 1/2
Arizona	64	93	.408	25

Yesterday's Games

Washington 2, Philadelphia 1
Atlanta 3, Florida 2
Cincinnati 3, Houston 2
N.Y. Mets 4, Milwaukee 3
Pittsburgh 7, St. Louis 2
L.A. Dodgers 9, Colorado 7
Chicago Cubs 5, San Diego 2
San Francisco 4, Arizona 2
Detroit at Cleveland, ppd., rain
N.Y. Yankees 6, Toronto 1
Tampa Bay 5, Baltimore 0
Seattle 3, Texas 1
Chicago White Sox 5, Boston 4
Kansas City 10, Minnesota 1
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 2

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

Hi-5	2	0
Sparks	2	0
CK Saints	1	0
Sonics	2	1
Ol'Aces	1	1
Rollers C	1	1
Rollers A	1	2
Rollers B	1	2
G-Stars	0	2
Agape	0	4

Emon Lodge 179 Freemasonry Intercolor Basketball League

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Far left, members of Mobil pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the Emon Lodge 179 Freemasonry Inter-Color Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Left, players of Armatech receive their runner-up trophy from Emon Lodge officials and guests during the awards ceremony.

Sparks players get their third place trophy.

Mythical Five members, from left, Armatech's Elmer Esdrelon and Junar Guiab, Mobil's Kelvin Fitial and Jun Estolas, and the Sparks' Thomas Santos.

Yasu Irinaka, center, receives the sportsmanship award given to Joeten Superstores. Joining him are officials and guests of Emon Lodge 179.

Emon Lodge caging guest Jesse Borja, left, hands the fourth place trophy to Oches owner Edwin Arenas.

Best in rebounds award winner Bruce Berline of Armatech.

Coach of the Year awardee Marvin Deocares of Mobil.

Best in steals award winner Marvin Rabauliman of Mobil.

Best in assists award winner Jomary Tumaquip of Mobil.

Govt shutdown to stall sports competitions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ongoing and future sports competitions in the CNMI will be suspended if the government shutdown pushes through.

"In anticipation of the government shutdown, the following leagues will be suspended until the passage of the fiscal appropriation for 2011," said Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Melvin Faisao.

Faisao was refering to the ongoing Rotary youth caging and business/government softball league and the upcoming government/business basketball league, MISO baseball, volleyball, and basketball leagues, Masters basketball, and Saipan Little League Baseball.

These competitions are played in various sports facilities, which are being managed by the Division of Sports and Recreation. The division's head, Joe Lizama, and his staff will not be reporting for work on Oct. 1, as they are not included in the shutdown exemption list.

A government shutdown will take effect tomorrow if the 17th Legislature fails to pass a budget for fiscal year 2011. Lawmakers from the Senate and the House of Representatives have until tonight (11:59pm) to end the budget saga.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The basketball court at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and other sports facilities on the island will be closed with the impending government shutdown.

Sports and recreation deputy director Joseph Attao said they will post tomorrow a notice of closure of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, including the weight room, if the shutdown pushes through.

Attao also said the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility and the baseball facilities will still be open, but no sports and recreation staff will be available to assist the public using these facilities.

Faisao added affected teams/organizers will be notified about the closure by 4:30pm today.

"DCCA will not be blamed for this drastic measure, as insensitive action of the CNMI Senate brought about this stumbling block," Faisao said in a letter sent to press secretary Angel Demapan and copy furnished to *Saipan Tribune.*

Disappointed

Elias Rangamar, president of the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Island, which is organizing the Rotary caging, is disappointed with the impending closure of the Ada Gym.

"It's unfortunate that we have to go this (closure) way. Hopefully, it won't be long. If not, we have to look for other options (venues)," Rangamar added.

Justin Cayading, who plays for Rollers B in the Rotary U15 caging, said he was saddened with the closure and he believes his teammates feel the same way, too.

"We just started the league last weekend and now we might stop playing. Playing basketball keeps us busy after school, now we don't have a good venue to play games," Cayading said.

Hopeful

Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI chair Ray Lizama hopes the budget crisis will be over soon.

"I hope they (lawmakers) will come together and find a better solution to this mess," said Lizama, whose masters league is scheduled to open at the Ada Gym next month.

"We have a board meeting today for our masters league and we will discuss backup plans if the shut down pushes through and we can't have our games at the Ada Gym," Lizama said. "If we can't play in the indoor gym, we can have our games in the outdoor court in Garapan."

VisMinda draws 1st blood in playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

VisMinda-Kids Cove survived its first playoff round assignment in the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League after outclassing Laguna Moonlight, 93-88, Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

VisMinda did a good job protecting its lead since the second quarter to advance to the next round. The Kids Cove-supported VisMinda will now take a weeklong break, awaiting winners of other playoff matches before playing on Oct. 7.

Moonlight will have a shorter breather, as it is scheduled to play this Saturday in a must-win game against the loser of the playoff match between MAFEA-Ebisuya and MDX-Monster PTC.

Alex Ocampo and James Abuy led VisMinda's five-point win, firing 24 and 20 markers, respectively.

Ocampo got off to a good start, knocking it eight points and then had a strong finishing kick, adding eight more markers in the final quarter. Abuy, who was held to three points in the first half, found his shooting touch in the third period, drilling four triples and 14 points in that canto.

VisMinda enjoyed its biggest advantage at 11, 59-48, midway in the third period and also led by double-digits in the fourth, but could not go for a complete breakaway, as Dindo Pablo, Felix Palacios, and Danny Illahi kept on bringing Laguna back in the game.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
VisMinda-Kids Cove's Danny Bicera goes up for his patented reverse layup during their game against Laguna-Moonlight in the playoff round of the UFO caging Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Laguna threatened VisMinda for the last time at the 75-71 tally after Pablo hit his fourth triple of the night, with more than five minutes to go in the game. However, Abuy answered with his own triple and Ocampo canned a short jumper to make it a nine-

See VISMINDA on Page 26

Lia breaks 29-year record in javelin

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Lia Rangamar is back on Saipan with a new CNMI mark credited to her name.

Rangamar along with three other youth athletes returned from Australia last weekend after competing in the 2010 Oceania U20 Area Championships and brought with her a national record in javelin throw.

The Marianas High School student submitted 35.17m in the women's javelin throw during the first day of the competition at Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia to win a silver medal in that event.

On top of giving the CNMI its lone medal in the three-day tournament, Rangamar also had her name in the Commonwealth's athletics record books. Her 35.17m in the Land Down Under tournament is now a

See LIA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Lia Rangamar poses for the camera during a practice session at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.

Tsunami Saipan aims for records in weekend meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will be hosting a dual meet this Saturday and is hoping to break several records at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura listed six members of the club who are expected to enter the record books of CNMI swimming. They are Kai Staal, Kensuke Kimura, Angel Marie Tan, Ryosei Toda, Lukas Kang, and Ryuto Yanai.

"We target several CNMI records in this meet, which will also feature swimmers from Saipan Swim Club," the Tsunami Saipan coach said.

For 16-year-old Staal, the top swimmer of the club, Hiro Kimura is hoping the former will shatter records in the 50m and 400m freestyle and 200m backstroke.

For Kensuke Kimura and Kang, more pressure are on their shoulders with the former eyeing to eclipse records in the 50m breaststroke, 400m freestyle, and 100m and 200m backstroke. Kang is pressed to crush four records, too in the 6 to 8 age group—50m and 100m backstroke, 50m butterfly, and 200m individual medley.

See TSUNAMI on Page 26